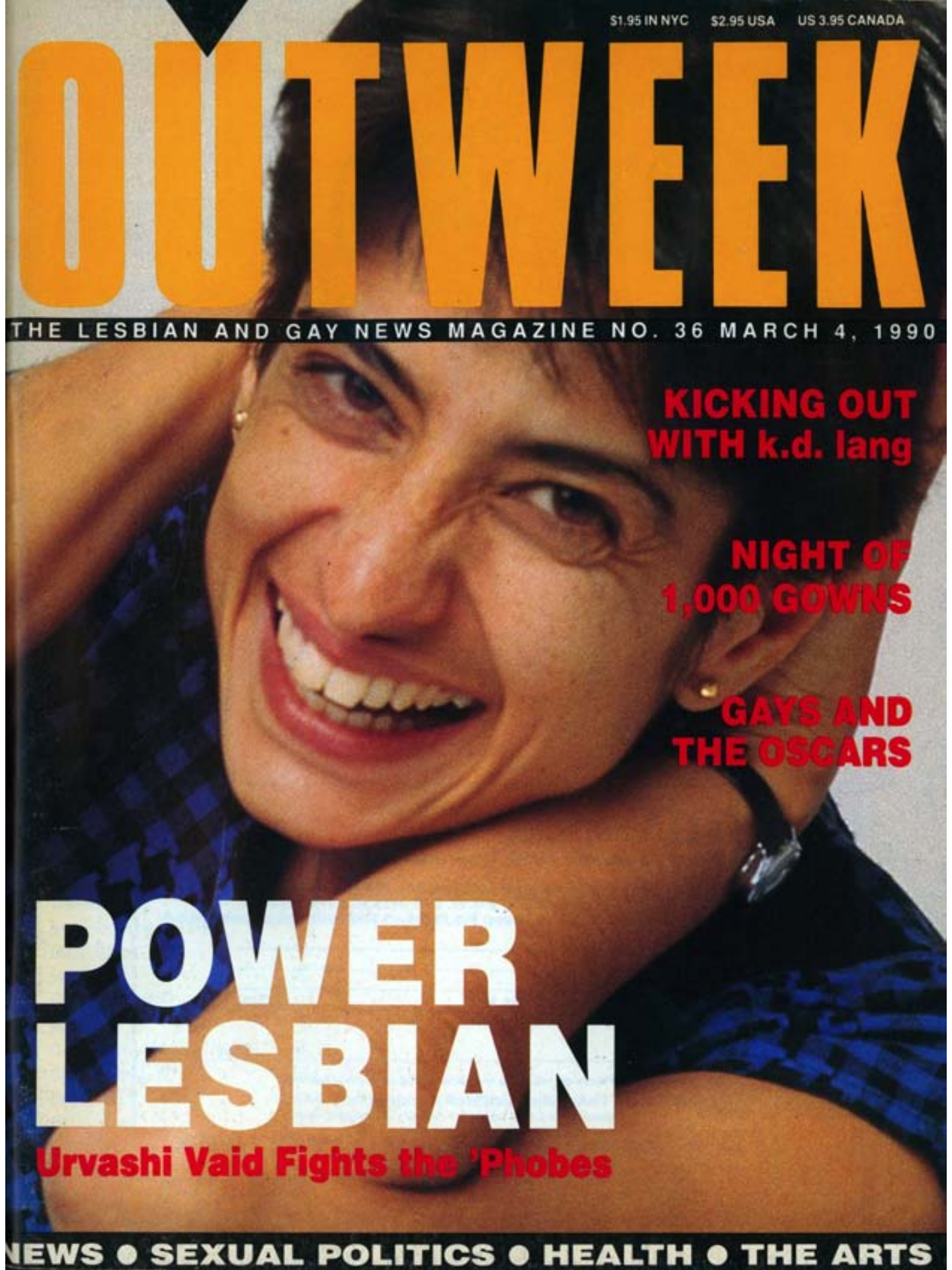
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THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS MAGAZINE NO. 36 MARCH 4, 1990



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OUTSPOKEN

Ritter and Reality

As the sorry facts about Father Bruce Ritter emerge, it's useful to reflect on what this talented man could have achieved had his life not been blighted by internalized homophobia.

Challenged in 1968 to live up to his idealistic sermons, Ritter embarked on the difficult, lonely task of trying to rescue runaway teens. He founded a unique organization that grew from a couple of tenement apartments on the Lower East Side into a series of huge, heavily-funded centers across the nation. Under Ritter's guidance, Covenant House has made an enormous positive difference in countless lives. Whatever one thinks of Ritter's alleged sexual or fiscal misconduct, there will always be thousands of people who have him to thank for rescuing them at a crucial moment of their lives.

Unfortunately, Father Ritter failed to rescue himself. As a closeted gay man he apparently internalized the insidious homophobia of the Catholic Church. Such self-repression is bad for every individual. But in Ritter's case it also proved to be bad for the thousands of gay and lesbian kids who sought shelter in his sanctuaries. Under Ritter's direction, Covenant House had a long record of callousness and abuse toward gay teens which it has only recently begun to address, thanks to the pioneering work of the Hetrick-Martin Institute.

Ritter personifies the classic dictum that the worst enemy of gays is a closeted homosexual in a position of power. Seeking to deflect suspicions, such people frequently adopt excessively homophobic stances. In Ritter's case this led an apparently compassionate man to tolerate overt homophobia among his staff, preach against gay self-expression, testify against gay civil rights legislation and deny the validity of safer-sex education at the height of the AIDS epidemic. It also apparently led to the covert seduction of under-aged teens, some of whom now charge sexual abuse.

Contrast this sorry record with the life-affirming, gay-positive influence Ritter could have had were he more at ease with his nature. Catholic priests need not risk expulsion by openly confronting the teachings of homophobes like Cardinal O'Connor. Many unsung heroes and heroines toil quietly but effectively within the church, gently challenging homophobia and assisting gays and lesbians. Had Ritter been graced with an empowering self-knowledge he would be a hero to our community and an example to all. We would be defending him, not applauding his downfall. Instead, a long and useful life seems destined to end in shame and disgrace.

Ritter's tragedy is the legacy of a homophobic society and church. But it's also the legacy of the closet, a dark, self-defeating place from which each of us has the power and the responsibility to emerge. ▼

OutWeek

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LETTERS

Media Assault

Is it the latest trend in gay-journal-chic to feature cover



stories with splashy headlines and sexually-suggestive pictures proclaiming that lesbians sleep with men? Your article itself included material of interest, but your sensationalized presentation evoked anger when I saw the issue on the newsstands, and for the first time ever I was embarrassed to read *OutWeek* on the subway.

Why? Because such headlines evoke the old folk wisdom that there is no such thing as a "real" lesbian, only a woman who has not yet found the right man. Is this the idea we are trying to perpetuate in the straight world, via our own media? I can't imagine that a female editorial staff would have allowed such a garish presentation to get by. If you won't hire a woman as editor, perhaps you can employ one to teach you some sensitivity.

For the most part, I enjoy *OutWeek*, and find it a vital source of community news and opinion. I read it publicly and with pride. Please don't make me feel assaulted by it instead.

Mickie Zacuto
Manhattan

Picture This

This letter is in response to one printed in issue 35 (Feb. 25) by Servalan Erik and Dan Hunter.

I was rather pissed off to read the letter from these two men (I'm assuming they both are men). I completely disagree with their belief that *OutWeek's* "Are Gay Men Having Safe Sex?" (no. 34, Feb. 18) cover was "shameful." Granted, the cover shows two white males at play. So what?! It's not like the magazine is trying to make some abrasive political statement by placing two attractive men on its cover. I seem to remember the "Gay 90s" issue (no. 28, Jan. 7) as having interracial couples on the cover (as well as at least one other issue in the past).

The men also mention that AIDS among lesbians has been ignored. Well, I know *I* have read several articles in *OutWeek* on that very topic. However, although AIDS is a tragedy under *any* circumstance, the fact that it has spread like wildfire through the gay male community may be the reason it merited a cover.

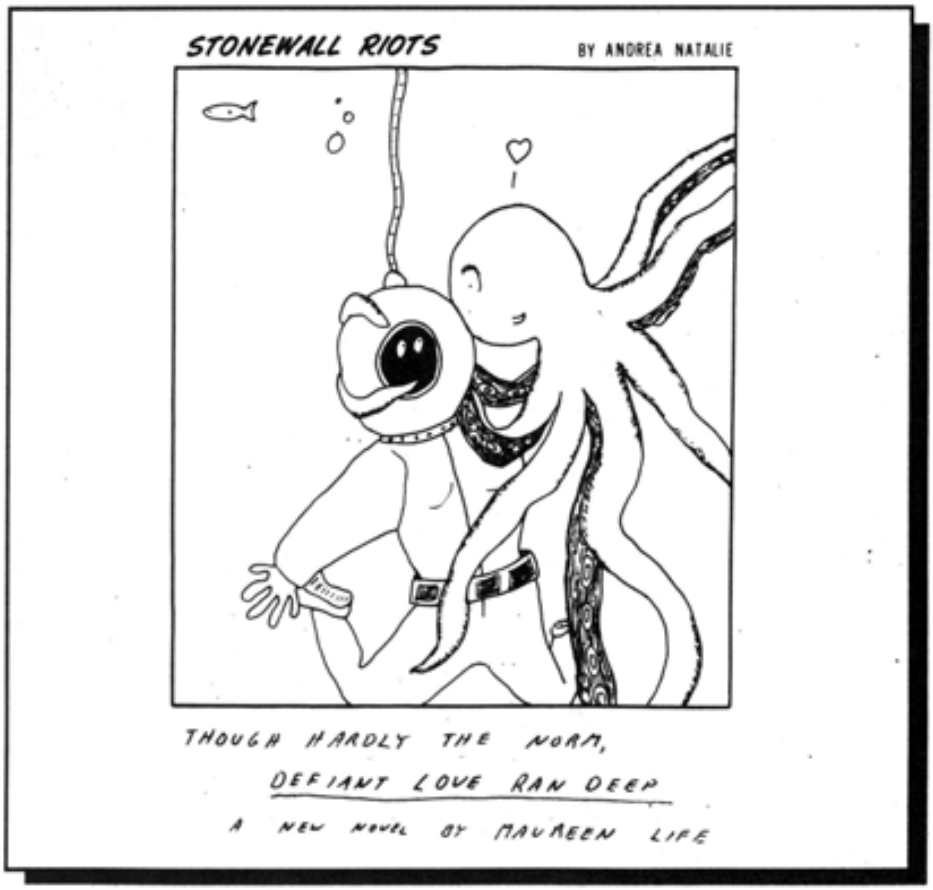
Also, did these men see the cover story which preceded "Are Gay Men...*"*? It was "Lesbians Who Sleep With Men."(no. 33, Feb. 11) I didn't read any mention from these two in their letter objecting to the fact that the two women and one male on the cover were white, nor did they cite that there should be a cover story devoted to "Gay Men Who Sleep With Women." Give me a fuckin' break.

I think *OutWeek* has done a very thorough and responsible job in the past in covering topics of sex, creed, race, color, etc. (including the types of people they portray on their covers.) And I think it's too bad that these two can't just enjoy looking at two hot men without ringing the alarm on prejudice.

Jeffrey E.
Manhattan

Pushing the Envelope

It's time for *OutWeek* to come out of the closet! How can New York's most visible and credible gay and lesbian newsweekly be considered in the closet? Simple. To those who subscribe, the magazine is delivered in a plain brown envelope, like so much pornography! This is



1990 and, frankly, we've come beyond the day when such treatment is necessary. GET RID OF THE ENVELOPE!

Your editorial stand of "self-haters" is very clear, and many of the more visible get raked over the coals each week. Yet, out of fear of scaring your subscribers (and scaring away their dollars), you pander to them. The time has come to stop. Stop the hypocrisy. Stop the double standard in the name of the all-mighty dollar. GET RID OF THE ENVELOPE!

Those afraid to get *OutWeek* with just a mailing label don't deserve this magazine. And, really, your message is lost on them, anyway. It's time to challenge them to face the facts. I hope you have the guts to do so. Please place your integrity ahead of the almighty dollar. GET RID OF THE ENVELOPE.

Rodney Blacklock
Montclair, NJ

Tune In, Turn On, Get Pissed

Craig Davidson and GLAAD are doing vital, long-overdue media watch and education. But have media expectations sunk so low that we now find ourselves asked to endorse the likes of *The Star*, the inept TV series "Doctor Doctor" and waiting one and a half months before calling for homophobe Andy Rooney's dismissal? In contrast, the Black community demanded —and received—his removal before Rooney's Black-bashing remarks in *The Advocate* had even hit the newsstands! Now Davidson, who has whiled away all this time hoping to "educate" 71-year-old Rooney (in vain), has invited him to upstage and slander gays further at GLAAD's first annual media awards dinner!

Though CBS's recently-cancelled "Doctor Doctor" has an encouraging premise (physician with a gay brother), it (like Showtime's "Brothers") freely indulges in every stereotype going for laughs and then simply tacks on a "live and let live" ending. Richard (the gay character) sports a prominent lisp. Richard is not a regular, but appears sporadically for an AIDS or "gay problem" episode only—probably so that his expendable presence could be terminated by CBS at the flick of the American Family Association's brow. Another character, the depressing, foppish British broadcaster mopes about referring to himself as a "tired old fairy." The episodes with Richard are not *about* him, but are about the other characters' homophobic behavior. Stereotypes and homophobia manage to be presented as routine and "understandable" and are lent some credibility in the process.



As a teen in the early 70s, I smiled watching Archie Bunker, Mary Tyler Moore, Hawkeye Pierce and the mass sitcom audience each meet their first gay person, sensing the power of TV comedy to gently but effectively put across social issues and change. It's disturbing to note that it's been almost 20 years since Archie got a lesson in homophobia and ten years since Jerry Falwell got ABC to axe "Soap" because it contained TV's first gay regular character. With "Doctor Doctor" gone, there are no gays or lesbians in primetime. What validation and encouragement are gay and lesbian teens currently getting from TV? We have yet to see a series premise *about* a gay or lesbian lead character and his/her life.

Perhaps *The Star* initially presented Chastity Bono's lesbianism (which she has denied in *The Enquirer*) sympathetically. But their extensive January 23rd quoting of some unidentified "close source" that trashed Chastity, her girlfriend, their relationship, their "man-ish" clothing, their intentions, their privacy, their gay pride and

Blurt Out

PURPLE PROSE OF *MIRA*...

Monthly pushing the limits on fashion fun and sneaking the border into reportage, *Mirabella* is a glossy with head. In the current issue, writer Lynn Darling wrangles with the ever-racy topic of androgyny. Scholars and armchair anglers on the subjects of gender, sexual identity *und so weiter* take note. Pushing off with an Ernest Hemingway quote, Darling forages over this subject's wild terrain, stopping only for the following sort of brilliance: "I think androgyny is a form of freedom." If you're not sated after Darling's dalliance with short hair , be sure to catch "Why can't a woman shop like a man?"

BEAD READER...

In its aptly titled "Flip Side" column, *US* has numerologist Cheryl Lee Terry palm reading. Gazing into Malcolm Forbes' paw, Cheryl sees: "The lines drooping from his heart-line indicate many unusual affairs of the heart...a person who, unhappy trying to fit into the strict rules of society, will always choose the uncharted path."

—Sarah Pettit

Cher's reactions was hardly sympathetic or encouraging.

I support the good intentions of Craig Davidson, GLAAD and even "Doctor Doctor." But I'm asking what Bette Midler once asked the gay community: "Don't you people ever tire of continually being slapped around?"

Even the most shut-in American, it seems, watches TV and reads newspapers—and these media are enormously effective in shaping perceptions. Gays are ten percent of America. We buy newspapers. We buy the products that keep sponsors, networks and TV shows in business. However, the press and Hollywood don't yet feel that gays deserve ten percent representation. And most gays, it seems, are not yet interested in really combating the destructive American Family Association (like *Playboy* is, in court), the tabloids and media who daily endeavor to keep us invisible or negatively portrayed. As Harvey Milk believed (and the Black rights movement learned), we'd do better to concern ourselves less with being liked and more with being respected because we are strong.

David Perry
Manhattan

Rotten to the Coors

I support the Coors boycott, so I'm glad that you note that Julius sells Coors in your bar guide.

However, I think you should tell your readers about *all* the gay bars and clubs that sell Coors. For example, Spectrum, the gay club in Brooklyn listed under *OutWeek's* Best Bets, also sells Coors. (And there are probably others.)

Kevin O'Connor
Manhattan

P.S. And by the way, why don't you list the "outer" boroughs in your bar guide?

See What the Activists in the Back Room Will Have

I thought your "Reporter's Notebook" piece on the ACT UP action in Atlanta raised an important and reasonable issue: that of the apparent source of tension between people in the community who feel that direct action is diametrically opposed to back room politicking (and *vice versa*). The potential for this tension to threaten the effectiveness of the movement is reason enough for concern.

After your exposition of the problem I thought you would elaborate and elucidate the nature of the problem. Instead, your analysis read to me like just so much more bashing. The only cause you seemed to be able to attribute to the problem was regionalism: cosmopolitan New Yorkers *vs.* parochial Southerners.

The truth of the matter is that direct action and back room politicking go hand-in-hand. Look at what we learned from the women's movement and the civil rights movement. Consult Saul Alinsky (*Reveille for Radicals*) on the utility of direct confrontation for the disenfranchised to assert their power. A false dichotomy exists. What is the source of this tension? It could be multivariate. What is the potential for this misunderstanding to divide the community? Teasing out the relative variables is tough but important work.

Personally, I lost two important allies in Georgia because they got mad at me for ACT UP having a die-in in front of the Georgia governor's mansion in 1988 to protest state inaction for people with HIV/AIDS.



Wow isn't that a coincidence. I'm 6'3 with long blond hair, blue eyes, have never called one of these numbers before and like to go to the gym after work, too!

I like to see *OutWeek* and you addressing issues important to the effectiveness and survival of the lesbian and gay rights movement. I am sure you don't believe there is such a thing as "value-free journalism" anymore than there is "value-free science." I only urge you to strive for excellence, bracket your judgments when they stand in the way of your vision, and go for the truth, don't settle for the easy out for a piece. An analysis of the importance and relevance of the two modes of working to effect change would be worthwhile. An exposition of the ideologies that drive people apart on this issue would also be of particular utility. Basically, I think you raised a very important issue and copped out in the analysis.

David Knapp Whittier
Brooklyn

Unsmooth Operator

I called PMK at 3:55 am on 2/15/90.

A gravely voiced lady said "PMK." And I said: "TELL CHASTITY SHE DOESN'T NEED A BEARD. AND THAT WE LOVE HER!"

The gravely voiced lady said, "Who's calling?"

After a *looonng* silence...I said very cheerfully, "Oh this is Tony."

Then she said, "Well I'm just an answering service. I'm not in the same building."

So I said, "Yeah so...? Just pass on the message."

And she said, "Well this is sort of a weird message to call them for at four o'clock in the morning."

So I said "Well give it to them whenever..."

And she said something else I don't remember about not being in the same building—and I think she said what building she was in. And should she pass on this message.

So I said "Well I think it's important...I read the article and I think it's important."

And she said "OK."

And so I said "Great! Thanks a lot!" (Very cheerfully, not sarcastic.) And I just thought I'd send you this note.

Sorry I didn't mention which "article" I read, but I think that they'll get the message. I hope I'm not the only one who called.

Anthony Arena
Manhattan

Where's that Face?

As a girl's girl and frequenter of night time lezzie social events, I have been compelled to get out of my sticky chair and comment on the Out on the Town with Liz and Sydney column.

First of all, columns of this sort, in which impresarios of their own celebrityhood, engage in a who-what-where discourse can be momentarily entertaining provided they cover interesting oddities and gossip in a manner which amuses the audience.

This is where Liz and Sydney fall short. The name dropping in bold face is fine, but let's try and drop some worthwhile names. Club owners are generally businessmen in suits who enjoy money and investments which serve as toys like clubs. Unless they appear on the stages of their club in drag and do a great Liza Minelli or Elvis, it is beyond me why they would warrant special attention. As for people that run these clubs, until they do something wildly sexy or socially significant it's obvious there is nothing to really say about them. Standing at a door in a well made suit and being in charge of a mailing list really doesn't seem worthy of boldface or type. Susanne Bartsch in Bangkok is as interesting as my great aunt's winters in Sarasota.

As for your publicity of La Escuelita, unless you can Salsa like a true Latina/o, whether you're a gawking, white heterosexual couple or a gawking, white lesbian or gay couple scarcely makes a difference. For this reason, you have publicized La Escuelita in the same vein as *Paper*.

One major drawback I sight for lesbians lately is an inability to expound on a certain lesbian erotica. We are clearly past the point of caring about how the hetero world views us, but it seems as if the gay male opinion is of great importance, particularly for Liz and Sydney. Given the fact that no one else is writing a column of this sort, it's a bit distressing that what we get is a tired view of the "scene" by two gay-male-wannabes. Liz and Sydney's alignment with gay men strikes me as a bit too homo. After all, they are boy's boys and we are girl's girls and we both should enjoy the differences, not mesh beyond distinction. And as one small aside I must mention that dental dams are as much a part of my life as taking the pill.

In any event, Liz and Sydney, I think that lots of lezzies out there want to hear exciting gossip, be informed on intelligent controversy and read tremendous chronicles of the luscious tits-and-ass evening we missed while our lovely faces were...elsewhere.

A. Girl
Manhattan

Rex Hex

When I read the article of Jan. 28 (no. 31) regarding gay men filing complaints against womyn-only events/spaces, I was outraged. I was so angry that I wasn't immediately able to respond, to deconstruct the ridiculous "ghetto" comments made by Rex Wockner.

As time passed, my thoughts coalesced and I began to organize my attack not only on the substance, but on the editing of the article as well. Why wasn't it mentioned that Rex Wockner often contributed to *OutWeek*? Why was the article edited so that the apparently rational critiques of single-sex events were rebutted only by clearly emotional responses, thus contributing further to the devaluation of womyn's separatist reasoning.

But never, never in a million years did I suspect that the truth was as horrible as the insightful Alison Bechdel revealed—that the article was actually written by one of its main subjects. I have never witnessed such a display of journalistic dishonesty as that article represents. Your response, that "we never get away with anything," is so inadequate, that it is even more unthinkable, if that is possible.

The responsibility of *OutWeek* is to filter news and present it from a gay *and lesbian* perspective; I am certainly sophisticated enough to recognize that all



Out on the Town With Liz and Sydney

by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokorny

publications' editorial biases are reflected in their reporting, but this lapse is truly astonishing. *OutWeek*, at the very least, has a responsibility not to pit members of the community against one another, but to deal with all members of the community with equal respect. Perhaps calling us one "community" is the mistake in my analysis. Lesbians must be ever vigilant of sexism, even from people they wish they could trust.

The editor responsible for passing that article should resign immediately. The statement in your masthead that the "opinions of *OutWeek* are represented only in our editorials" has clearly been violated. Again, I am so angry that I find myself unable to address the substance of Wockner's arguments. Perhaps with these objections out of the way, one of my sisters will take up that challenge. Unfortunately, that is a battle I will miss, because it will be a cold day in hell before I buy this publication again.

Annette L. Hurst
Brooklyn

That Wockner's story ran without his byline was unfortunate. And while OutWeek's *response to Bechdel's letter was perhaps overly glib, it nonetheless acknowledged the error, which* OutWeek *regrets.—Ed.*

Praise Larry and Pass the Ammunition

HALLELUJAH! That hosanna is in response to Larry Kramer's column in *OutWeek* (no. 34, Feb. 18). Through all of the recent turmoil surrounding the subjects of Myers, Sweeney, Krim, Dinkins, Braff, GMHC, ACT UP, St. Patrick's, O'Connor, Humm, Stoddard, Gallo, NIH, CDC, the *Native* and *OutWeek*; through near lynch mob hysterics, community disorganization and lack of unified, organized community representation, someone has finally stepped back, taken a look at the reigning chaos and made a call to arms.

Despite our anger, confusion, finger-pointing, fears and differences, we must organize all of these things, along with our collective power, intelligence and passion, and start throwing the stones at our real adversaries—Bush, Cuomo, Moynihan, D'Amato, Helms, Dannemeyer, O'Connor and Dinkins (before he truly does become our enemy.)

At this time we cannot afford to become enemies to ourselves when so much is at stake. We are always going to have our differences; we are never going to agree on every matter of concern to the gay community. Face it. Accept it. And let's move on—together.

Robert Allan
Manhattan

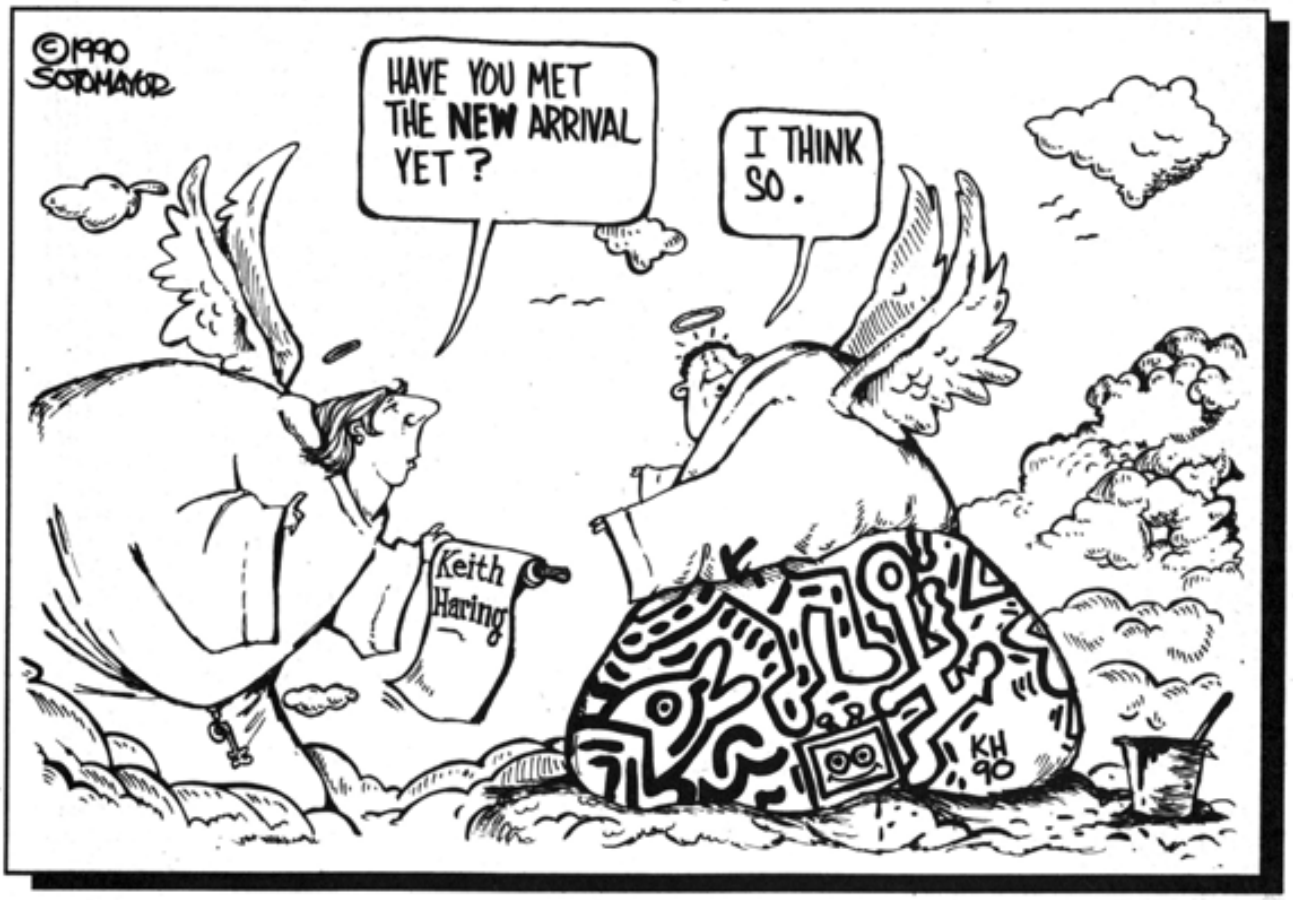
Blasting "Boroughism"

What is clear in reading your publication is that so many people care only about themselves and their careers.

It seems to be true of GMHC. Its workers of all colors are more interested in playing ball with the government than fighting a quarantine.

It's true of the so-called "All-Peoples Congress," a group that pretends to speak for the working class and will sell us out at every turn.

But it's also true of *OutWeek*, I'm afraid. Your snide remarks about Staten Island



show a contempt for those of us who can't afford to live in the trendy village. Yes, gay people live in the Bronx, too, and some of us choose to. Having a downtown address doesn't make you better. ACT UP's "Stop Killing Queers or We'll Move Here" chant reflects this bias.

It's true of *OutWeek* when you label Koch-appointee Joyce Hunter a "gay leader on youth issues." Gay youth have not elected her or the Hetrick- Martin Institute to speak for us. They don't.

Now you know why so many gay people are turned off by the political movement.

Paul Sanchez
Bronx

Distinction with a Difference

In Gabriel Rotello's article on Father Ritter's forced leave of absence from Covenant House (no. 34, Feb. 18), Craig Davidson, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is quoted as saying, "The issue here is pedophilia, not homosexuality." If Bruce Ritter's relationship with 24-year-old Kevin Kite is pedophilia, then GLAAD's employment of the able and energetic Karin Schwartz as its assistant director is a violation of child labor laws.

Mr. Davidson goes on to say, "pedophilia is a much bigger problem with straights than with gays." This is true, but not in the way Davidson appears to believe. *Sexual abuse of children* is indeed a "much bigger problem with straights than with gays," as most sexual abuse takes place within the family when men molest their daughters, nieces and other female relatives. Victims of such abuse suffer a scandalous lack of legal protection and psychological support services. But gay men who have consensual, loving relationships with boys face greater legal trouble than do straight men who rape girls. I hope that in the future Mr. Davidson and GLAAD will be less muddled in their thinking and become more sensitive to the legal and social difficulties faced by men and boys who love each other

Bob Rhodes
Spokesperson
The North American Man/Boy Love Assoc.

On Gay Quakers

In the midst of much more important things people have written about in letters in these columns, there have occasionally been mention of religious groups and, once or twice, the Quakers.

At least our reputation is positive! People know that we have among our members gay men and lesbians and don't think much about it. Some feel that we are cautious to the point of getting little done to relieve the oppression within and without us. We may appear rather more intellectual than emotional, and there are doubts as to whether we are religious in any usual sense of the word. Someone wrote in these pages that we have ordained openly gay pastors.

Everything but the last is true. Most Friends' meetings have pastors. I'd be quite surprised if any of them were openly gay. Though we welcome all kinds of people to our meetings, a gay pastor would be more than any pastoral Friends' meeting I've heard of would swallow. This is because there is a strong biblical base to most Friends' religion, and most of our groups interpret that base more conservatively than not.

A dozen of us gay and lesbian Friends also meet for worship and a pot-luck supper the third Sunday of each month at the meeting house in East 15th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

Two of the congregations in the city have recently agreed to celebrate gay marriages in the same ways they do straight ones. Another meeting has been in the throes of discussions and worries about this for nine years. (What has taken so long is we insist on all agreeing to, rather than voting on, our decisions, and to get there, we have to persuade, rather than lobby, line up sides or maneuver. We're still trying to persuade.)

Our worship and prayer together is meant to be a way to listen to God within and amongst us, to our caring natures, our humor and then to begin to do something about them. We are adults: we have no hierarchy and we have to think through and make our own decisions.

We welcome people who think that this kind of discipline might meet their inward needs.

John Maynard
Clerk of the 15th St. Friends' Meeting
Manhattan

Chip, Which?

I found it ironic that your cover story in the Feb. 18 issue (no. 34) was devoted to safer sex, while the back page sported a picture of "notorious sex kitten" Chip Duckett. This is typical of the contradiction that exists between Chip Duckett's image and reality.

Chip's roots as a publicist are certainly obvious from the number of pictures, pages and ads in your and other magazines. He certainly packs them in at Mars on Sunday nights, and now at two other spots every week. And he packed a lot of kinds into Mars last summer for a supposed benefit for GLYNY at "Mars Needs Kids." GLYNY was supposed to get a percentage of the door, yet somehow GLYNY never got a dime.

It was also packed New Year's Eve at Cuando. So packed in fact, that the coat check line was two stories long. Chip remedied the situation by offering a free coat check. Unfortunately, at the end of the evening, many people had to leave without their coats because other people had left with them. We were some of those people. I myself went into the coatroom to find the coats that were left strewn about the floor, as, according to the attendants, there had never been nearly enough hangers. According to other employees of Cuando and Mars (hired by Chip), many people lost their coats that night. Chip personally promised us compensation on two occasions, yet we have had to pursue legal action, as we had never received a dime.

Chip Duckett knows how to throw a party. He just doesn't know how to keep his word.

Yale Alexander
Marc Borders
Manhattan

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There is no "AIDS civil war" as your sensationalist cover (February 14) would have your readers believe. In the war against AIDS, GMHC and ACT UP use definitely distinct and complementary tactics. As in any war, it is wise to use multiple strategies. Our means may be different but our end is the same—stopping the epidemic. The controversy generated by the selection of Dr. Woodrow Myers as health commissioner was painful for all AIDS organizations. There are wounds to heal but GMHC and ACT UP will continue to fight on the same side in the battle against AIDS.

As you do acknowledge, both GMHC and ACT UP chose not to support Mayor Dinkins' choice of Dr. Myers. We saw GMHC's role in the controversy as keeping lines of communications open among the various AIDS organizations in the city. In that role Jeff Braff had the full support of GMHC's Board of Directors, as he has since the board selected him by an overwhelming majority (not by one vote as you report). We found in Jeff an activist's passion and a manager's expertise, and he exercised those qualities in the past month, keeping a calm voice in a heated debate. Rather than not "knowing who were the cowboys and Indians," Jeff tried to show there don't have to be good guys and bad guys when AIDS activists disagree.

GMHC and ACT UP work together in coalition with other AIDS organizations on a local and national level to speed up drug development, increase access to new treatments and demand more government funding for AIDS services. And just last week GMHC and ACT UP demonstrated together in Staten Island against the bias-related killing of a gay man. In addition, members of ACT UP work as volunteers and paid staff at GMHC while many others receive services here as GMHC clients. GMHC staff members are equally as active in ACT UP meetings and demonstrations. Our work together has never stopped and won't until AIDS is ended.

As in any healthy community, there are often open, vocal disagreements. We are people fighting for our lives. Nothing we do is easy or routine, especially when government does so little to help. For our own self-preservation, we resist any attempt to drive a wedge between us. We have seen the enemy and it is not each other, it is AIDS.

Joy A. Tomchin
President, Board of Dir.
Gay Men's Health Crisis

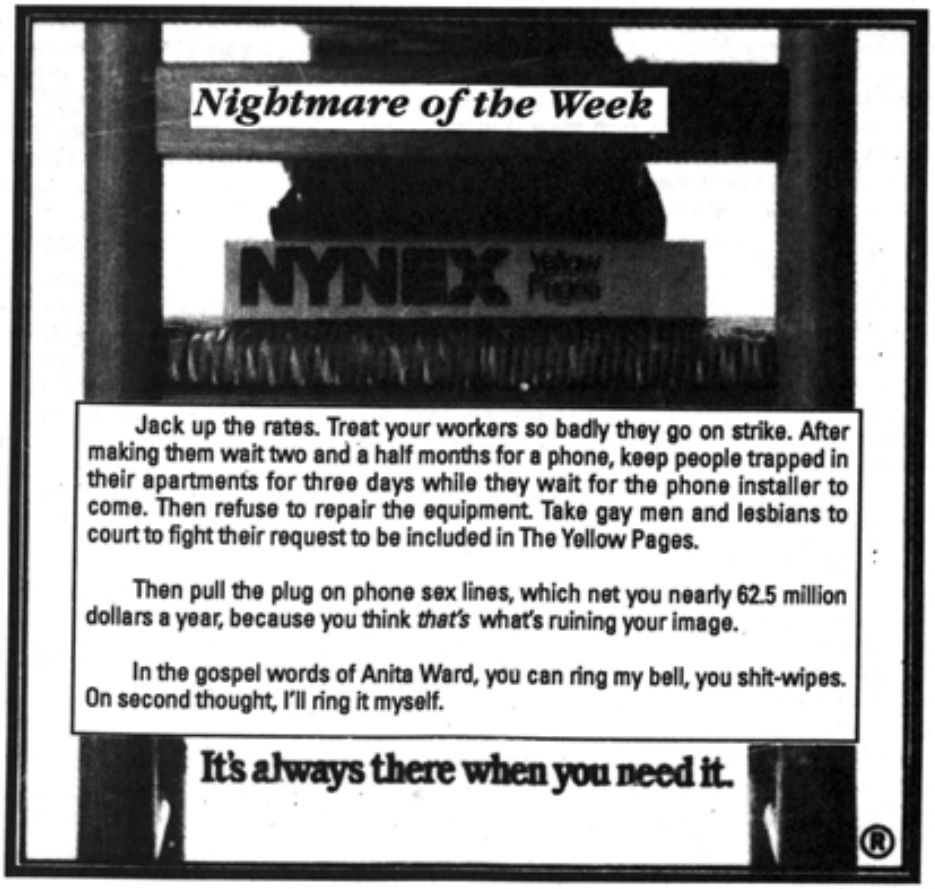
Last Target

The New York Times
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

Russell Baker seems to think that his fellow satirist Andy Rooney's six-figure job at CBS is somehow a "right" which has been taken away by a repressive regime at CBS. Obviously Mr. Baker sees nothing wrong with verbal assaults made on network television against oppressed minorities. Or against *certain* minorities. So what if the attack was part of a large chorus of bigotry which often manifests itself violently, such as in recent murder on Staten Island? Even the U.S. Congress has recognized, in its overwhelming support of the hate crimes bill, that anti-gay bigotry is a serious and systematic problem in our culture. Mr. Rooney yelled "Fire!" in an unfortunately crowded theater. Sometimes, this bigotry is expressed more subtly, as in the *Times* itself, which in the Keith Haring obituary the same day managed to avoid even mentioning that the artist was openly gay. CBS News apparently understands what Mr. Baker and others at the *Times* do not: That gay people are no longer willing to be, nor do we deserve to be, the bigot's last socially acceptable target.

Peter Friedman
Manhattan



Two Men Nabbed for "Lewdness" in Riis Park

Charge Police with Lies, Bias



RIIS PIECE Photo: T. L. Litt

Vincent Ferina, near where he and his boyfriend were arrested.

by John Voelcker

NEW YORK—Two Brooklyn men arrested in Jacob Riis Park in Queens early this month on charges of public lewdness have decided to fight the charges. They allege not only that the excuses used by a U.S. Park Police Officer to approach them was false, but that the officer lied about their conduct in his report and while interrogating each of them. And, they say, the whole case would not have occured in the first place if they had not been gay.

According to Vincent Ferina, 22, of Bensonhurst, he and his boyfriend Joey, 21, who lives in Gravesend, just wanted a little "romantic" time at the beach after visiting with friends earlier on the night of Monday, Feb. 5. At 11:38 pm (according to the police report), Ferina said he and Joey saw a set of headlights approaching their car, parked in Lot 3 at Riis Park, which faces the sea on the Rockaway Peninsula, south of Brooklyn.

"...kissing and fondling..."

From that point on, the events described in the police report diverge considerably from the story told by the two men—and also from the standard police procedure in such a case, as presented to *OutWeek* by Lt. Michael Fellner, who is patrol lieutenant for the U.S. Park Police at Riis Park.

According to Fellner, it is standard procedure for park police officers on patrol to inspect any cars in the "very deserted" area during the winter. However, the report, by a Police Officer Irizarry, says the men's brown Pontiac was parked "in violation of posted sign."

Signs in that particular lot, however, say clearly that the lot closes at midnight and that permit parking is in effect only during the summer months. Thus neither sign applied at 11:30 pm in February. On noting this, Fellner said he would have to question Irizarry about this part of his report.

The report continues, "Upon approaching vehicle I observed two male naked subjects kissing and fondeling [sic] each others [sic] exposed erect penis's[sic]." Here, the two men say flatly that the officer is lying, although they cheerfully admit they were "petting" with their shirts off.

But, Ferina said, they were below the car's window line, invisible from the outside—and, he said, the windows were fogged up as well. Still, when they saw the headlights, Joey jumped from the back seat into the front.

As for the statement they were naked, Ferina just laughed. His jeans were tight enough that it would have been almost impossible, he said, in the cramped back seat of the car. "Anyway," he said, "I didn't go to have sex in a car," but that he had just wanted to spend some time with Joey.

It is this part of Irizarry's report—which they say contains flat-out lies— that made the two men so determined to press their case. "I've never had any criminal charges ever in my life," said an angry Ferina, "and I'm not about to start now just because I was making out with my boyfriend."

Separate questioning

Once the officer opened the door and ordered them out, he frisked them, handcuffed them and called for a second officer, who also frisked them. Joey wasn't allowed to put on his shirt despite the freezing weather, Ferina said, although Ferina himself was. At no time did either officer read them their rights, he said, although Lt. Fellner countered that this would not be unusual in a lewdness case where "extensive investigation isn't required" and there is no intent to question the suspects.

After being taken to the station house, Ferina said, Irizarry did read them their rights, and then questioned each of them separately. Ferina alleges that Irizarry told each that the other had admitted they were having oral

sex, in an attempt to force a confession. "He told Joey, 'I assume you were having oral sex,' and he told me, 'I thought you were in the 69 position,'" Ferina said.

Fellner said, however, that "for a misdemeanor offense, normally we wouldn't question an arrestee about the incident." Told that the two men say they were questioned repeatedly, he said he would have to ask Irizarry about that, too.

During the interrogation, Ferina said, he accused Irizarry of antigay bias, saying that they wouldn't have been arrested if they'd been a straight couple. While Irizarry denied that charge, later comments by the officer convinced Ferina that in fact antigay bias had contributed to their arrest.

As the two men were being released, Ferina said, Irizarry casually advised them they should have gone to another part of the beach which he named, which was better known for gay sex. "He told us he had arrested one corrections officer giving a blowjob to another one there," Ferina said incredulously. "And he said if we'd been out in the bushes there, it would have been a completely different story."

Released after more than an hour, the pair had to call a car service to take them from the station house back to their car. There, Ferina said, they began arguing—until they realized that each was accusing the other of the same thing. Then they compared notes and realized what had happened.



SEASON'S GREETINGS Photo: T. L. Litt

Sign in parking lot where February arrests took place

Planning to fight

The pair plan to contest the charge of public lewdness levied against each of them. Neither has paid the $100 fine, which would constitute an admission of guilt, and each is still waiting to be assigned a date for a hearing in U.S. District Court.

They decided to fight, Ferina said, after talking to several friends, who were uniformly outraged at their story and the treatment they got. Several friends, both straight and gay,

See "LEWDNESS" on page 54

NJ Cops Nix Gay Restroom Racket

NEW YORK—Following massive publicity in both the gay and non-gay news media, the newly-appointed New Jersey State Police Superintendent, Col. Justin J. Ditino, announced the termination of the undercover operation at the Vince Lombardi Service Area on the New Jersey Turnpike. The operation led to the entrapment and arrest of hundreds of men on "lewdness" charges. Ditino agreed with Lambda that "It's kind of repulsive...that the state police should be involved in undercover activity to arrest people for [allegedly] lewd behavior." He announced that only uniformed troopers would be assigned to patrol where necessary.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund led a coalition of gay and civil rights activists and groups protesting the undercover operation in which teams of plain-clothed officers, who were paid overtime, were stationed in the restroom, engaged in flirtatious behavior, pretended to masturbate and arrested men who indicated any reciprocal interest. The expensive operation took place over the last three years, and resulted in hundreds of arrests. Most people were too intimidated or embarrassed to fight the charges.

While extremely pleased with the new administration's repudiation of undercover entrapment techniques, Lambda staff attorney Evan Wolfson, who is coordinating coalition actions, said that the state police needed to take additional steps. "Although the operation at Vince Lombardi was one of the worst, it was not unique," Wolfson remarked. "We have received complaints about similar police activities in such localities as Bloomfield, Montavale and Sayreville, to name just a few." Wolfson also noted complaints of local police abuses against gay people in parks, bars and even bookstores, and called upon the Florio administration to end all undercover entrapment of gay people throughout New Jersey.

In addition, Lambda is urging the state police to implement a program of basic sensitivity training for state troopers, designed to counteract ignorance and prejudice about the extensive gay and lesbian community in New Jersey. Police in New York and Massachusetts, among others, have instituted successful programs without difficulty.

The Lambda-led coalition includes such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, the Anti-Violence Project, as well as local attorneys and other activists. The coalition filed a brief documenting many of the abuses and constitutional and legal issues in two individual cases on appeal in Superior Court in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Declared Wolfson, "Police operations like this waste valuable resources, lead to serious abuses and destroy the gay and non-gay public confidence in law enforcement. Gay men and lesbians in New Jersey deserve protection, not victimization, by their police."

ACT UP Tangles with Insurance Industry

by James Waller

Employers and insurance companies that reduce health care benefits for illnesses resulting from HIV-infection are beginning to suffer pressure applied by AIDS activists and gay-rights organizations committed to mounting campaigns and conducting litigation against them.

A telephone action orchestrated by 21 ACT UP chapters last month against Galaxy Carpet Mills of Chatsworth, Georgia, resulted in that company's agreeing to eliminate a clause in its employee health insurance policy that discriminated against people with AIDS.

ACT UP/Atlanta is currently involved in negotiations with the management of the Peasant Corporation, which runs a chain of restaurants in the Atlanta area, to remove a cap on the amount of money its insurance policy will pay toward covering medical expenses for treatment of AIDS-related sicknesses.

Peasant Corporation, which, like Galaxy, is a self-insurer that does not use an outside carrier, has imposed a cap of $10,000 on medical treatment for AIDS-related conditions.

According to Chip Rowen of ACT UP/Atlanta, ACT UP has threatened actions against Peasant Corporation unless their discriminatory policy is changed by Feb. 28. He said that ACT UP has rejected statements made by the company executives that the cap was imposed only as a matter of expediency after the company was dropped by a major insurance company and that Peasant fully intends to "take care of" any of its workers who fall ill from HIV-related causes.

Rowen said that Peasant's discriminatory plan was particularly offensive because the company was, until recently, gay-owned, and that Peasant's restaurants employ many gay workers and attract a large gay clientele. He said that Peasant Corporation's Atlanta location would enable ACT UP to conduct "much more intensive actions" against the company than had been possible in the case of Galaxy, which is located in a rather remote, rural section of Georgia.

On a third case, Lambda Legal Defense has filed a complaint against H&H Music, a Houston, Texas-based music store chain and music publisher, on behalf of a

See INSURANCE on page 54

PWA Convicted for Spitting on Cop

by David Anger

MINNEAPOLIS—Madeline Rodriquez, a 37-year-old native New York woman living with AIDS, was found guilty of second degree assault by Hennepin County District Judge Kevin Burke on Feb. 12. Her case was championed by ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), which held a demonstration outside Minneapolis' City Hall on her behalf.

Prior to ACT UP's Dec. 8 protest, Rodriquez was charged with attempted murder on Dec. 5 after allegedly spitting saliva and blood on a Minneapolis police officer during a dispute in her apartment.

In a plea bargaining agreement with the court, charges of first and third degree assault were dropped. Rodriquez waived her right to a jury trial and pleaded guilty to assault in the second degree. The negotiation resulted in imprisonment being waived, and Rodriquez was placed on five years probation.

Judge Burke agreed to probation on condition that Rodriquez remains under supervision of a probation officer, commits no other crimes, spends six days in a Hennepin County Adult Detention Center, verifies outpatient methadone treatment and verifies additional mental health counseling with the court.

Rodriquez was explicitly told that she must either continue with methadone treatment or enter an inpatient treatment center. Judge Burke said, "I don't want you to decide that you're going to chuck the whole thing, or that you could."

Jerod Peterson, Rodriquez's attorney, said she still maintains her innocence.

On Dec. 1 Rodriquez was hit by a Minneapolis police officer who was attempting to restrain her son. After being struck in the jaw, she began to bleed. According to the original court complaint filed by attorneys for the state, Rodriquez screamed, "I have AIDS and I hope you get it and die, motherfucker."

Rodriquez disputed the police officer's story. At a Dec. 5 court hearing, Rodriquez said, "Your Honor, I

See PWA CONVICTED on page 54

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For updates, call SAFECALL at (212) 337-1210

SAFECALL is endorsed by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, The New York Civil Liberties Union, GMHC, Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, HEAL, Dial Information Services, *OutWeek*, *New York Native*, GLAAD, Gay Cable Network, FAIRPAC, Body Positive, & The Coalition of Information Providers.

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News

Dinkins to House PWAs in City Shelters

by James Waller

NEW YORK—In a joint press conference held on the steps of city hall last Tuesday morning, representatives of 23 AIDS service and homeless advocacy organizations expressed their dismay over what they see as a dramatic and troubling about-face on the part of Mayor David Dinkins.

Their outrage focuses on the implementation of a plan, similar to one developed during the Koch administration and opposed by then-Manhattan Borough President Dinkins, to place HIV-ill homeless people who do not meet strict criteria for other housing in "special care units" of city shelters.

Dinkins announced late on Tuesday that he intends to move ahead with the implementation of the program. In letters written to then-mayor Koch in 1988 and 1989, Dinkins had expressed strong objections to the earlier shelter-based plan, saying that "any facility accommodating more than 50 PWAs would be harmful to [their] physical and psychological health" and that "no amount of offsetting social services could overcome" this.

In the statement released last week, Dinkins said the pilot program he supports represents a "substantial revision" of the Koch proposal and that it incorporates "special safeguards...to ensure enhanced care for those who will be participating in the program."

The first special care unit has been planned for the Bellevue Men's Shelter at First Avenue and East 29th Street, where a segregated wing has been set aside to accommodate 560 medically frail people. One hundred beds in that wing are designated for HIV-infected men who do not meet the Centers for Disease Control definition of AIDS and/or who are not so sick that they cannot bathe or toilet themselves.

The Dinkins plan calls for the physical rehabilitation of the entire Bellevue shelter as a 925-bed "special needs" facility that will house physically and mentally disabled persons. According to Dinkins' statement, the special needs program's opening will be delayed for four months until renovation is complete.

According to some press-conference participants, the Bellevue unit has already begun operation, though only two HIV-ill people have been assigned to it. Norbert Bissinger, a member of the shelter's advisory council, said that 70 beds are currently being held empty for eventual occupancy by HIV-ill people and that, in the meantime, the shelter is being forced to turn away about 50 men each night, directing them to other city-run shelters. The shelter's advisory council is among the groups opposing the mayor's plan.

Participants in the press conference argued that consigning homeless PWAs to city shelters endangers those persons' health, safety and privacy, is more expensive than alternative plans involving scattered-site housing for PWAs, and sets a disturbing precedent that betrays Dinkins' stated commitment to provide adequate services for homeless people who are HIV-ill. Advocates estimate that there are now 10,000 homeless people with HIV-related illness in New York City — a figure they expect to rise to 30,000 by 1992.

Jeffrey Braff, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, enumerated the many complaints about conditions in city shelters that homeless PWAs have brought to GMHC. Echoing other participants' contention that most homeless PWAs will opt to live on the streets and in subway stations if city shelters are their only alternative, Braff said that it was unclear "what access HIV-infected people will have to social service programs" if they refuse placement in shelters and that the plan, by forcing people to drop out of the city's network, will put an unfair additional burden on GMHC and other private AIDS service agencies.

Virginia Shubert, who directs the AIDS Project of the Coalition for the Homeless and who spoke at Tuesday's gathering, told *OutWeek* that her group has sent a letter to the mayor's office containing several alternate remedies to provide some immediate relief of the growing problem posed by homeless PWAs.

First, said Shubert, "we want the city's Department of AIDS Services to expand its case management services to all HIV-infected homeless people. This is required to get them the advocacy they need."

Shubert said that homeless PWAs need information and help in expediting their application for the rental assistance funds provided by the city and in searching for the market housing that that assistance makes possible. The Coalition for the Homeless also wants the city to guarantee reimbursement of the rental "bridge" loans now offered by several advocacy groups to homeless PWAs who need immediate financial assistance when signing leases.

Most importantly, all of the groups represented at Tuesday's press conference are pressing the city to immediately issue requests for proposals for unlimited scattered-site housing programs for homeless PWAs. These RFPs, according to Shubert, have been on hold for more than a year.

Shubert said that the Coalition for the Homeless already runs one such program, which has been very successful. She said that she has found that landlords are very eager to rent to the not-for-profit agencies that would administer the city- and state-funded scattered site programs.

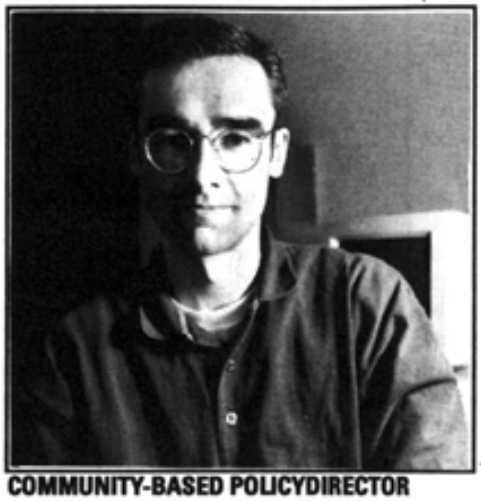
Joining the others gathered on city hall's steps on Tuesday morning was

See PWA SHELTERS on page 54

New AmFAR Exec Battles U.S. Border Bigots

by James Waller

NEW YORK—The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) has announced the appointment of William Flanagan, formerly a law professor at Montreal's McGill University, to serve as the organization's new director of public policy.



COMMUNITY-BASED POLICYDIRECTOR
AmFAR's Bill Flanagan Photo: T.L. Litt

Flanagan, who is gay, has been on the job with AmFAR for about five weeks. In a telephone interview with *OutWeek*, he listed his goals in the new position as being, first, to build up and give direction to AmFAR's public policy department, which, he says, has been without a director for a long time.

Secondly, Flanagan said, he sees the need for AmFAR to press more strongly for adequate federal and private funding for the nationwide network of the more than 40 community-based clinical trial groups (CBCTGs) with which AmFAR is associated. CBCTGs provide venues for testing experimental therapies for HIV infection and AIDS-related illnesses.

"We need to get the message to NIAID [the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases] that they and the pharmaceutical companies must help us build the critical mass necessary to perform research properly. AmFAR can't do it alone," Flanagan said.

During his first month with AmFAR, Flanagan worked with a coalition of gay and other civil-rights groups to put together what he calls a "consensus document" whose aim is to change the way HIV-infected travelers are treated by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Federal law currently forbids foreigners with HIV infection from travel in the United States unless their passports carry a special stamp identifying their HIV-positive status.

This statute is proving particularly troublesome to AmFAR and the other groups sponsoring the Sixth International Conference on AIDS scheduled to be held in San Francisco during late June of this year. A long list of foreign medical and AIDS-service organization have announced their intention to boycott the conference unless these travel restrictions are lifted.

Changing the law under which the INS operates will require an act of Congress. AmFAR, says Flanagan, is working with a number of Washington, D.C.-based lobbying groups to get Congress to remove HIV infection from the INS list of "dangerous contagious" diseases. But, he said, that will involve a long, hard fight.

In the meantime, AmFAR is hoping that the coalition-drafted document, which has been sent to the INS, will alter the way in which INS agents deal with travelers they suspect may be HIV-infected. Although the regulation requiring travelers who apply for U.S. visas to state their HIV status will

See AMFAR on page 54

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News

Fed's Anti-Gay Security Clearance Upheld

by Arthur S. Leonard

A three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled unanimously Feb. 2 that the U.S. Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO) may single out gay security clearance applicants for special investigations. The ruling reversed a 1987 decision by District Judge Thelton Henderson, which held that the special investigation process violated the Constitution by unjustifiably discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

The lawsuit was brought by High Tech Gays, an organization of gays employed in high technology occupations, and three individuals who had been subjected to the special investigation procedure.

DISCO claims that gays with access to sensitive information may be vulnerable to blackmail by foreign agents, so that a special investigation of their lifestyle is necessary to determine whether they should be given such access.

High Tech Gays asserts that an applicant's sexual orientation is not a sufficient ground for initiating such an investigation, and condemns DISCO's practice of relying on memberships in gay organizations as a basis for determining whom to investigate.

In his 1987 decision, Judge Henderson found that government policies which discriminate against gay people require a high burden of justification from the government. When treatment is unequal based on classifications which are considered suspect, such as race, the government policy receives strict scrutiny. Some classifications, such as sex, have been held to be "quasi-suspect" by the Supreme Court, meaning that the government also faces a heightened burden in justifying them. If a classification is neither "suspect" nor "quasi-suspect," the government's burden of justification is relatively light.

The Supreme Court has never ruled on whether homosexuality is a "suspect" classification. But Judge Henderson ruled in 1987 that homosexuality is at least a "quasi-suspect" classification, and that the reasons DISCO gave for singling out gay applicants for security clearances did not meet the burden of justification. The Ninth Circuit panel disagreed.

Writing for the panel, Judge Melvin Brunetti, who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan, said that the 1986 Supreme Court decision in the *Bowers vs. Hardwick* Georgia sodomy case, made clear that gays are entitled to no special protection from discrimination.

Traditionally, courts have determined whether a classification is "suspect" by looking for indications that prejudice is at work. Judge Brunetti focused on a three-part test that is frequently used: has the classification traditionally been used to discriminate?; is the classification based on an innate or immutable characteristic (such as color or sex)?; and are the people harmed by the classification unable to participate effectively in the legislative process?

The Ninth Circuit concluded that only the first test was met, but that gays flunked the other two tests:

"Homosexuality is not an immutable characteristic; it is behavioral and hence is fundamentally different from traits such as race, gender, or alienage, which define already existing suspect and quasi-suspect classes," he wrote.

"Moreover, legislatures have addressed and continue to address the discrimination suffered by homosexuals on account of their sexual orientation through the passage of antidiscrimination legislation. Thus, homosexuals are not without political power."

Richard Gayer, the attorney for High Tech Gays, has already filed a petition to have the full Ninth Circuit reconsider this decision.

"The court's opinion, although it reads well to the uninitiated, is really a result-oriented decision," Gayer charges. "They decided they were going to rule in favor of the Defense Department, and they had to bend over backwards to do it."

One of the fallacies he points out is that the court misapplied the third test. While it is true that many cities and two

See ANTI-GAY FEDS on page 67

ROTC to remain at Madison

by David Anger

MADISON, Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin administrators refused to terminate the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program on campus when its Board of Regents accepted a recommendation Feb. 2 which allows ROTC to remain on campus.

On Dec. 4, 1989, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate voted 386 to 248 in favor of a motion calling for the termination of ROTC programs by May, 1993, unless ROTC included lesbians and gay men. The proposal was forwarded to Donna Shalala, University of Wisconsin-Madison chancellor, and Kenneth Shaw, University of Wisconsin System President.

"Such action would reinforce the message that we are not debating the merits of the military, but rather the right to freedom from discrimination,"

said Shalala regarding formulating a concerted lobbying effort. "After weeks of consultation on this issue with those in our campus community, state leaders, alumni and supporters across the country, we have been persuaded that a vote on whether or not to sever this campus' ROTC contracts would, in the end, hinder our effectiveness in working with Congress and the military on this issue."

Faculty and students working for change were disappointed by the administration's decision. Jordan Marsh, a Madison student, said the bottom line for Shalala was money. Democrats and Republicans in the Wisconsin legislature as well as Republican Governor Tommy Thompson pressured Shalala to keep ROTC on campus despite the presence of a statewide lesbian and gay rights bill.

Dale Bolley, Democratic Wisconsin state Representative and chair od the Veterans and Military Affairs, sent a letter to Shalala threatening to mandate the university to keep ROTC on campus. Conservative Republican State Senator Michael Ellis wrote a letter to Shalala complaining that kicking ROTC off campus because of lesbian and gay discrimination would make Madison the "San Francisco of the midwest."

And according to Brian Elliot, a research analyst for the Congressional Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, legislators were afraid that affirming the faculty's action would endanger future defense contracts and military posts in Wisconsin. Elliot said Wisconsin policymakers are vigorously lobbying Congress and the Department of Defense to build a Joint Readiness Training Center in Wisconsin, which could bring a great deal of money to the state.

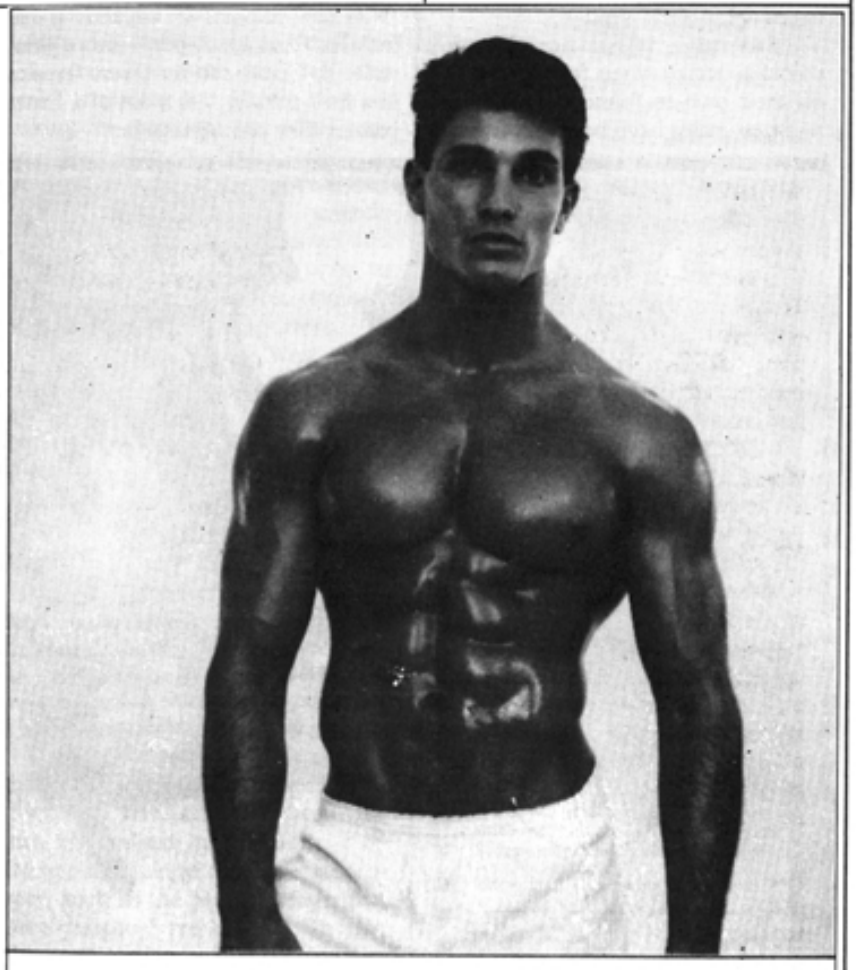
University and legislative officials were careful not to appear homophobic. Joseph Elder, a Madison faculty member who introduced the original motion, said that if officials were homophobic they did a good job in disguising any anti-gay sentiments. But Jim McFarland, an openly gay Republican member of Madison's city council, said homophobic attitudes within ROTC fueled recruits' opposition to termination. *Capital Times*, Madison's daily newspaper, quoted ROTC students opposed to lesbian and gay inclusion.

"Homophobia is present in our society given that there is a much greater disgust with discrimination on the basis of race or religion rather than sexual orientation," said Elder.

On the national scene, Sue Hyde, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Military Freedom Project, said the university's reluctance to go forward with establishing a deadline indicates that it is still acceptable to discriminate against lesbians and gay men.

"Since Shaw and Shalala recommended that the University of Wisconsin coordinate a program to change military discrimination, we extend to them a hearty welcome to the gay and lesbian military freedom lobby," said Hyde.

As in the past, University of Wisconsin-Madison has been at the forefront of social change. Campuses throughout the United States, from Northwestern to Harvard, are debating ROTC's discriminatory policy. University of Iowa's law school recently voted to ban ROTC programs from meeting at the law school. ▼



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Female gulls turn to each other

Recent research on various kinds of sea gulls shows that female gulls choose each other as mates when males are in short supply.

Sex-ratio imbalance in gull colonies occurs when females set out on their own to found new colonies or when males have been "feminized" by environmental pollution and cannot breed.

The "lesbian" sea gull phenomenon has been studied extensively in the past 15 years by several California academics, including George Hunt at the University of California at Irvine and Michael Fry at the Davis campus of the same university.

"It shows up in newly-founded colonies or in places where there is a lot of agriculture," Hunt explained. "With new colonies the situation is that females tend to disperse more than males and there can be excess females in a new colony. For want of a better partner, they pair off together."

The female-paired gulls "have the freedom to go elsewhere, but for whatever reason they don't," Hunt said. "They are not forced to stay at a particular island to breed there, but they do."

A major study of lesbian gulls was conducted on Santa Barbara Island, in the Channel Islands off Southern California. Researchers found that 15 percent of female western gulls had same-sex mates, laying eggs in the same nest and defending the nest as a couple.

"It's impossible for a single gull to lay eggs and be successful because gulls will eat gull eggs," explained Fry.



Photo: T.L. Litt

LOS ANGELES—Over 1,000 AIDS activists and protesters against U.S. policy in Central America gathered at the opulent Century Plaza Hotel the evening of February 6, greeting President George Bush, California Governor George Deukmejian and U.S. Senator Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) with chanting, whistle-blowing and a stink bomb. Bush and Deukmejian were attending a fundraising dinner for Wilson, who is running for governor in the wake of Deukmejian's departure from office. The protest was billed as an effort to "Stop G.O.P. Death Squads" in the U.S. and Central America.

One hotel guest hung a banner from his balcony reading, "Bush Kills People With AIDS, Women and Central Americans."

Eight people were arrested at the protest, which was organized by ACT UP/Los Angeles and Days of Decision, a coalition of local groups opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America.

"A second gull has to defend the nest so they can switch off in incubation. The females defend the nest as normal gulls would. They are smaller but fairly aggressive."

Hunt says the female pairs retain female behaviors, including "soliciting courtship feeding with the [characteristic] head-tossing directed at each other." Male gulls regurgitate food to help females in egg production.

"Neither partner in the female pairs consistently shows masculine behavior," Hunt said. "Both resemble females in intruder issues and are significantly different from males. We rejected the hypothesis that female-female pairing is the adoption of a male role by either partner or an extreme female role by one member."

Researchers have observed a small amount of female mounting behavior, but accourding to Hunt, it is uncommon. "The female gets on the back of the other bird and they go through all the behavior you'd expect a male to, except they seem misoriented and instead of facing forward they might stand facing sideways or something," he said.

The female-paired gulls "obviously" breed with males, researchers point out, "but we don't know much about where they get fertilized," Hunt said. "Sometimes nests are close together and there can be one male with several females."

Although the most common environment for female pairing is newly-founded colonies, the phenomenon also occurs in established colonies where males have been "feminized" by chemical pollutants.

Such scenarios were most common in the 1960s and 70s, researchers say, and may well be the result of PCB, DDE and the pesticide Mirex.

"There are pieces of evidence that DDE gets transformed by one organism to another as it goes through the biochemical cycles of the animal—and some of those are estrogen analogs—and this can lead to a feminization of male tissue," Hunt explained.

The phenomenon has been observed among gulls in Lake Ontario, Puget Sound and elsewhere. Female-female pairing in general has also been seen in Oregon, Lake Superior and elsewhere in Washington State. —**Rex Wockner**

Gay/lesbian Arab group branches out

WASHINGTON—The Gay and Lesbian Arabic Society (GLAS) of the U.S.—the first such group in the world, including the Middle East—is looking for members and other people interested in gay Arab issues.

Formed in the nation's capital more than a year ago, GLAS currently reports dozens of members around the country. The group is open to gays and lesbians of Arabic origin or descent, and their supporters. To accomodate increasing West Coast interest, GLAS has recently opened a San Francisco chapter.

"GLAS provides Arab men and women with a support network and vehicle for gay Arab visibility," said Ramzi Zakharia, GLAS founder and co-leader, in a prepared press statement. "We reach out to gay Arabs and build a group identity that, for the most part, does not exist."

But perhaps most important, said Zakharia, is the work GLAS undertakes to dispel stereotypes about Arabs.

"We advocate a positive image of Arabs in the gay and lesbian community," said Zakharia, a Palestinian born and raised in Lebanon. "We attempt to change negative stereotypes, such as the 'sultan' image, that some people have of us. We also educate the straight Arab community about gay and lesbian issues."

GLAS will participate in the Second Annual Arab AIDS Conference in Cairo this March. Most recently, GLAS has worked with Al Jadwal, the newsletter of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, to publish information about fighting AIDS in the Arab community.

For more information on GLAS

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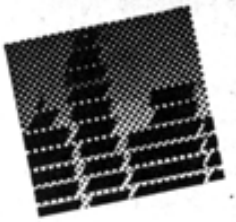
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(please print) _____

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_____

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By signing I agree that neither the computer dating service nor its agents has any liability and cannot be held responsible for any actions of its members as a result of the release of the authorized contact information indicated above. I also state that I am of legal age.

_____
Signature Date

New England/Upstate New York

☐	YES	OK	NO	Buffalo area
☐	YES	OK	NO	Rochester area
☐	YES	OK	NO	Syracuse/Central NY
☐	YES	OK	NO	Poughkeepsie/SE NY
☐	YES	OK	NO	Albany/Schenectady/E. NY
☐	YES	OK	NO	Boston/E. Mass/RI
☐	YES	OK	NO	Connecticut/W. Mass
☐	YES	OK	NO	Vermont/NH/Maine

New York City

☐	YES	OK	NO	Manhattan
☐	YES	OK	NO	Brooklyn
☐	YES	OK	NO	Queens
☐	YES	OK	NO	Bronx
☐	YES	OK	NO	Staten Island
☐	YES	OK	NO	Long Island
☐	YES	OK	NO	Westchester/Fairfield City
☐	YES	OK	NO	N. New Jersey 'burbs

TRAITS

Type of Relationship

☐	YES	OK	NO	Lover (monogamous)
☐	YES	OK	NO	Lover (nonmonogamous)
☐	YES	OK	NO	Buddy (sexual)
☐	YES	OK	NO	Buddy (platonic)
☐	YES	OK	NO	One night stand
☐	YES	OK	NO	Romantic fling
☐	YES	OK	NO	Affair
☐	YES	OK	NO	Pen-pal

Age Range

☐	YES	OK	NO	18-21
☐	YES	OK	NO	21-25
☐	YES	OK	NO	25-30
☐	YES	OK	NO	30-35
☐	YES	OK	NO	35-40
☐	YES	OK	NO	40-50
☐	YES	OK	NO	50+

Build

☐	YES	OK	NO	Bodybuilder
☐	YES	OK	NO	Muscular
☐	YES	OK	NO	Average
☐	YES	OK	NO	Slim
☐	YES	OK	NO	Stocky
☐	YES	OK	NO	Heavy
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very Heavy

Height

☐	YES	OK	NO	5'6" or less
☐	YES	OK	NO	5'6"-5'9"
☐	YES	OK	NO	5'9"-6"
☐	YES	OK	NO	6'-6'3"
☐	YES	OK	NO	6'3" or taller

Hair

☐	YES	OK	NO	Black
☐	YES	OK	NO	Dark Brown
☐	YES	OK	NO	Light Brown
☐	YES	OK	NO	Auburn
☐	YES	OK	NO	Red
☐	YES	OK	NO	Strawberry Blond
☐	YES	OK	NO	Blond
☐	YES	OK	NO	White gray
☐	YES	OK	NO	Bald

Eyes

☐	YES	OK	NO	Blue
☐	YES	OK	NO	Green
☐	YES	OK	NO	Gray
☐	YES	OK	NO	Hazel
☐	YES	OK	NO	Brown
☐	YES	OK	NO	Black

Facial/Body Hair

☐	YES	OK	NO	Smooth
☐	YES	OK	NO	Clean Shaven
☐	YES	OK	NO	Mustache
☐	YES	OK	NO	Beard
☐	YES	OK	NO	No body hair
☐	YES	OK	NO	Smooth chest
☐	YES	OK	NO	Hairy chest
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very Hairy

Race

☐	YES	OK	NO	Caucasian
☐	YES	OK	NO	Asian oriental
☐	YES	OK	NO	Black
☐	YES	OK	NO	Latin
☐	YES	OK	NO	East Indian

General Appearance

☐	YES	OK	NO	Very goodlooking
☐	YES	OK	NO	Attractive
☐	YES	OK	NO	Average
☐	YES	OK	NO	Below average
☐	YES	OK	NO	Yuppie preppie
☐	YES	OK	NO	Young executive
☐	YES	OK	NO	Mature executive
☐	YES	OK	NO	Trendy
☐	YES	OK	NO	Collegiate jock

Dress

☐	YES	OK	NO	Casual (t-shirt, jeans)
☐	YES	OK	NO	Sometimes sloppy
☐	YES	OK	NO	High fashion
☐	YES	OK	NO	Semi-formal
☐	YES	OK	NO	Drag

Occupation

☐	YES	OK	NO	Financially independent
☐	YES	OK	NO	Self-supporting
☐	YES	OK	NO	Nonself-supporting
☐	YES	OK	NO	Unemployed
☐	YES	OK	NO	Student
☐	YES	OK	NO	Office clerical
☐	YES	OK	NO	Service hospitality
☐	YES	OK	NO	Sales
☐	YES	OK	NO	Construction
☐	YES	OK	NO	Technical
☐	YES	OK	NO	Self-employed entrepreneur
☐	YES	OK	NO	Managerial
☐	YES	OK	NO	Professional
☐	YES	OK	NO	Health Care
☐	YES	OK	NO	Entertainment arts

Substance Use

☐	YES	OK	NO	Smoker
☐	YES	OK	NO	Non-smoker
☐	YES	OK	NO	Heavy drinker
☐	YES	OK	NO	Social drinker
☐	YES	OK	NO	Non-drinker
☐	YES	OK	NO	Non-drug user
☐	YES	OK	NO	Light drug user

Personality

☐	YES	OK	NO	Assertive
☐	YES	OK	NO	Easy-going
☐	YES	OK	NO	Outgoing
☐	YES	OK	NO	Publicly affectionate
☐	YES	OK	NO	Not publicly affectionate
☐	YES	OK	NO	Shy reserved
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very masculine
☐	YES	OK	NO	Fairly masculine
☐	YES	OK	NO	Somewhat feminine
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very feminine
☐	YES	OK	NO	Closeted
☐	YES	OK	NO	Doorway
☐	YES	OK	NO	Openly gay

Social Activities

☐	YES	OK	NO	Spectator sports
☐	YES	OK	NO	Working out
☐	YES	OK	NO	Movies
☐	YES	OK	NO	Live theatre
☐	YES	OK	NO	TV video
☐	YES	OK	NO	Concerts
☐	YES	OK	NO	Arts events
☐	YES	OK	NO	Dining out
☐	YES	OK	NO	Parties
☐	YES	OK	NO	Bars dancing
☐	YES	OK	NO	Cooking
☐	YES	OK	NO	Travel
☐	YES	OK	NO	Camping hiking
☐	YES	OK	NO	Sailing surfing
☐	YES	OK	NO	Skiing
☐	YES	OK	NO	Tennis racquetball
☐	YES	OK	NO	Swimming
☐	YES	OK	NO	Cycling
☐	YES	OK	NO	Music
☐	YES	OK	NO	Photographer
☐	YES	OK	NO	Painting art

Beliefs

☐	YES	OK	NO	Catholic
☐	YES	OK	NO	Protestant
☐	YES	OK	NO	Jewish
☐	YES	OK	NO	New age
☐	YES	OK	NO	MCC
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very religious
☐	YES	OK	NO	Somewhat religious
☐	YES	OK	NO	Not religious
☐	YES	OK	NO	Politically liberal
☐	YES	OK	NO	Conservative
☐	YES	OK	NO	Social democrat

Sexual Preferences

☐	YES	OK	NO	Kissing
☐	YES	OK	NO	Cuddling
☐	YES	OK	NO	J O
☐	YES	OK	NO	French active
☐	YES	OK	NO	French passive
☐	YES	OK	NO	Greek active
☐	YES	OK	NO	Greek passive
☐	YES	OK	NO	SAFE SEX
☐	YES	OK	NO	Toys
☐	YES	OK	NO	Leather
☐	YES	OK	NO	S M top
☐	YES	OK	NO	S M bottom
☐	YES	OK	NO	Heavy S M
☐	YES	OK	NO	Experimental
☐	YES	OK	NO	Three-ways
☐	YES	OK	NO	Group sex
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very experienced
☐	YES	OK	NO	Average experience
☐	YES	OK	NO	Inexperienced
☐	YES	OK	NO	Virginal
☐	YES	OK	NO	Small to average endowment
☐	YES	OK	NO	Average to large
☐	YES	OK	NO	Very large endowment
☐	YES	OK	NO	Cut
☐	YES	OK	NO	Uncut

Special Consideration

☐	YES	OK	NO	Sensory speech handicap
☐	YES	OK	NO	Movement handicap
☐	YES	OK	NO	Have no privacy
☐	YES	OK	NO	Have no transportation
☐	YES	OK	NO	HIV negative
☐	YES	OK	NO	Bisexual
☐	YES	OK	NO	Transsexual

Group Formed To Combat Phone Sex Ban

by Andrew Miller

NEW YORK—In response to attempts by New York Telephone to restrict access to adult phone services, commonly known as the phone sex lines, SAFE CALL, an organization of



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
Demo at the phone company

members of many of the state's top AIDS, gay and civil liberties groups, has formed. On Wednesday, the day after it was constituted. SAFE CALL held a demonstration outside the offices of New York Telephone, distributing information on the proposed ban to phone company workers entering the building.

A second demonstration is planned for Thursday, March 1 at 12 noon outside the building at 1095 Sixth Avenue near 42nd Street.

The group was formed in reaction to a proposal by New York Telephone to change its tariffs, or rules, concerning access to and billing for the Information Providers (IPs), as the adult phone service operators are called. Industry analysts contend that the proposed tariff changes would drive the IPs out of business in New York.

Those tariff changes must be approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) before they take effect. If approved in their present form, many phone sex lines would cease operations on March 21.

The tariffs were inspired by a new federal law, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and passed last November, severely restricting access to phone sex and making it a crime to provide the means for obscene conversations on the telephone for profit.

Groups and individuals involved in forming SAFE CALL had several reasons for opposing the ban on phone sex. AIDS advocates are concerned because phone sex is widely viewed in the AIDS community as a form of safe sex. It is feared that a ban on that form of sexual expression could lead, in some cases, to a rise in unsafe sex.

Civil libertarians view the ban as an assault on First Amendment right of free speech. Gay and lesbian rights groups were angered at what they view as an attack on a vital form of communication and assembly for gays. And gay and lesbian journalists, editors and publishers were concerned about the future of their publications, many of which are heavily dependent on advertising revenues from the phone sex companies.

Lawyers for SAFE CALL stressed that the first line of defense against the ban was to convince the PSC to turn down the new tariff proposals, and many gay, AIDS and civil liberties groups sent letters and briefs to the PSC outlining their reasons for opposing the ban.

Ron Vachon, Director of the New York City Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns, wrote to the PSC that, "One of the most severe obstacles faced by AIDS educators is reaching men who have sex with men, but do not affiliate with the gay community, and consequently, frequently deny that they are at risk for AIDS. For that group, telephone sex is a way to connect with other men...without the risk of contracting AIDS."

Additional letters were sent by Gay Men's Health Crisis, ACT UP, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, The New York Civil Liberties Union, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), HEAL (a holistic healing group) and numerous other groups.

Mark Barnes, head of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Policy Board, issued a statement saying, in part, "I fear that to put up bars to safer sex will result in the unnecessary spread of HIV in New York State, and if that is the result it would be appalling. It would be particularly appalling if this occurs because of actions taken by New York State itself."

Lawyers for SAFE CALL are also preparing a challenge to the ban should the PSC approve the new tariffs.

A further legal challenge is being discussed nationally by lawyers for a broad consortium of groups opposed to the Helms law on constitutional grounds. A similar law passed in 1988, which mandated an outright ban on phone sex, was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last fall. The new Helms law was designed to overcome the Court's objections by regulating phone sex out of business but not banning it outright.

SAFE CALL was endorsed by Lambda, the New York Civil Liberties Union, GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Northern Lights Alternative, FAIRPAC, the Minority AIDS Task Force, HEAL, Body Positive, the AIDS Center of Queens County, the Gay Cable Network, the New York Native, OutWeek magazine and Dial Information Services. ▼

Hentoff = Homophobia

by Gabriel Rotello

Poor Nat Hentoff. Imagine starting off life as a respected lefty writer and commentator, and then degenerating into a two-faced right wing creep, a poor man's William F. Buckley. Ending up an embarrassing fag basher.

Formerly loyal readers now writhe as Nat tries to cultivate a pseudo-progressive persona while dishing out drek Anita Bryant and Jesse Helms would serve up themselves. In this respect he mimics former Mayor Ed Koch, who also claimed to be a liberal even as he defended police murder and incited racism. Both men seem to think that their twisted contradictions lift them intellectual miles above colleagues who are mired in a dogmatism which they pretend to have surpassed.

But the truth is that both are essentially right wing sexists and homophobes without the courage of their convictions, emotionally wedded to neo-conservative schlock while apparently ruing the freedom and rebellion of their long lost youth.

Hentoff is now a full-fledged embarrassment at the *Village Voice*. The latest sad chapter in his protracted decline was last week's column, "Silence = Black and Hispanic Deaths." In it he decries the detestable tendency of the mainstream press, including the *Voice*, to ignore the spread of AIDS in communities of color. So far, great. But homo-hating Nat couldn't stop there, because homophobes are never content to discuss society's bankrupt approach to AIDS without pointing their finger at the inevitable super-villians of the crisis, namely gays. Or, in Nat's loaded, coded phrase, "gay white males."

Social hatred of gays has always marginalized us whatever our color or sex, but that marginalization is taking on new dimensions in the hands of fake liberals like Hentoff. With overt homophobia no longer acceptable in liberal circles, Hentoff links "gay" with the oppressive code "white male" and bingo, he has a new legitimate target of liberal hatred.

Now, if queers of any color or sex participate in a demonstration against contact tracing, they are all selfish "white men" ignoring the priorities of people of color. If fags or dykes dare to protest some asshole putting us in concentration camps, bingo, we're insensitive "white male" racists failing to do our duty to advocate for those "hardest hit" by AIDS, namely anybody but us. (It would probably surprise my dozens of dead "gay white male" friends that they were not among those "hardest hit" by AIDS.)


NAT HENTOFF

Silence = Black and Hispanic Deaths

The unspoken assumption of Hentoffian homophobes is that gay priorities and gay lives are not valuable lives, and that if gays want respect we have an obligation to place our priorities, and our lives, below those of people more "legitimate" than we. We've always been expected to feel guilty being gay. Now, if we refuse to cringe and accept that guilt because of traditional reasons like old-fashioned homophobia, we must learn to feel guilty because we're white or male, (even though many in the forefront of groups like ACT UP or GMHC are neither, a fact homophobic Hentoff conveniently ignores.)

Debra Fraser-Howze, executive director of the Black Leadership Coalition on AIDS, put it very succinctly on a recent segment of PBS's *The 11th Hour*. Explaining to Tom Stoddard and me that she had "compassion" for gays with AIDS, she nevertheless felt compelled to explain the vital difference between gays and Blacks with the disease. "We have to say," she had to say, "that when we look at this disease [among Blacks], this disease affects women, children, therefore families and the propagation of generations for our community." Such a point, that there is a vital difference in AIDS in the Black community because *there it affects real people who have real children and build real families*, is the very definition of homophobia. It's unspeakably insulting to our community. It presupposes the inherent worthlessness of homosexuals because we (supposedly) don't reproduce.

Now add to that Nat's concept that we're all additionally guilty because of the myth that we're all "white males," and you have a potent emotional brew for neo-homophobes like Hentoff, who can't get away with traditional homophobia (it isn't cool) but have no trouble bashing gays if you attach to us the oppressor-code "white males."

Hentoff made some incredible statements that could only be expected from someone who failed to interview a single "gay" for his inflammatory piece. (Why would anyone want to interview those

"gay white male" oppressors, right?) My personal favorite was his quoting of Fraser-Howze as saying that during the Myers fiasco she never saw "in the pages of *OutWeek* any acknowledgement that the Black community has a role to play with regards to AIDS." She obviously didn't read this magazine during the period in question. But it's also worthwhile to point out that throughout those sad days, editors and reporters at *OutWeek* desperately attempted to interview Fraser-Howze to get her views on those very questions. I would conservatively estimate that we called her office 50 times. She never took, or returned, a single call. Hentoff, not surprisingly, wasn't interested in this inconvenient truth.

Another mind-boggler is Nat's continual recitation of the "gay white male" mantra in his piece (seven mentions in one page), without once mentioning the participation of people of color in the activist fight against AIDS. Without mentioning the Majority Action Committee of ACT UP, which consists primarily of people of color and was at the forefront of the fight against Myers. Without mentioning groups like GMHC and the PWA Coalition's outreach to people of color and their pioneering efforts at coalition building, efforts which were severely set back when people like Fraser-Howze brushed aside gay outrage over Myers' homophobia. Without mentioning the fact that every single piece of literature printed by ACT UP is now required by ACT UP's constitution to be translated into Spanish, in an effort to outreach to those in the Latino community who don't read English. Without mentioning the numerous articles about minority community AIDS and women's health in journals like *OutWeek*.

Without questioning people like Fraser-Howze as to why they don't join their sisters and brothers in the AIDS activist movement and start marching and demonstrating, instead of complaining that their activities get eclipsed by those willing to put their bodies on the line to fight AIDS. Without questioning people like Fraser-Howze as to why so few members of their organizations are people actually infected with HIV, or people with ARC or AIDS, a participation that would give a sense of urgency to their activities and which might drive them into the streets. Without questioning Fraser-Howze as to why she points the finger of neglect at *OutWeek*, a gay publication, and not at the *Amsterdam News* and the *City Sun*, which shamelessly ignore the epidemic in their midst.

Yet Hentoff, is his transparently disingenuous way, states, "It's not only much of the press and gay white males, of course, who largely ignore the dying people of color. So [does] the government..." Gee, thanks, Nat. First you totally ignore everything our community has done to build bridges with and assist other affected groups, and then, enlightened thinker that you are, you allow that doing nothing is not *only* the fault of *gay white males*. How big and liberal of you.

Everything about Hentoff reeks of this homophobic bias, a bias that should be out of place in a paper that claims a huge gay and lesbian readership. Hentoff writes of "grim" ACT UP demos, of gays who "claimed to be speaking on behalf of everyone" with AIDS, of "ACT UP and...others...acting only out of self-interest," of gays demonstrating "for their own goals, like no contract tracing."

He accepts Fraser-Howze's correct assertion that "having an impact on AIDS policies is no longer the franchise of the gay white world," he tells us that minority AIDS communities have "different priorities" and then he accepts, without gagging, that those AIDS priorities are things like "dental health" and "lead paint," traditional concerns of health care advocates but concerns that have nothing to do with AIDS.

He doesn't question why the head of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, when asked about exactly what's different about her AIDS priorities, changes the subject and starts to talk about lead paint. But then why would he question it? The point isn't to be rational. The point is to bash queers. Or rather, excuse me, "gay white males."

Nat Hentoff is a menace to the truth about AIDS. His incendiary homophobia is designed for no other purpose than to find a new way to blame the very people most trying to win the fight against AIDS. His is the goal of Jerry Falwell and Jesse Helms in disguise. Gay and lesbian readers of the *Village Voice* should keep this in mind as they plunk down their weekly dollar, Musto, Goldstein, Minkowitz, Ireland, Solomon, Indiana, *et al*, notwithstanding. ▼



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Obituaries

Scott Robert Johnson

Scott Robert Johnson, born in 1958, died in San Francisco on January 17. Scott



grew up in Massachusetts. He had beautiful deep brown eyes and an infectious grin. Scott lived in San Francisco in the early 1980s, and in New York from 1984 to 1988. I met Scott the night of the harmonic convergence in August 1987 and we rapidly became close friends. Scott was impulsive, bold, generous and fun to be around. He was an artist, self-taught and on the verge of becoming very good. In fall 1987 a previously asymptomatic HIV infection became serious. New York City had very little to offer Scott in the winter of 1988. He survived two bouts of PCP in Massachusetts (living with his parents) and drove across the country in summer 1988 with Dan Kane, his lover from earlier in the 1980s. They lived together in San Francisco for the next year and a half. Scott was stable for a time. He had trouble penetrating S.F.'s overburdened health care system until he got MAI. Later he also got CMV, but it stabilized with DHPG. He still painted at times. In fall 1989, he developed a wasting syndrome. On New Year's Eve of 1990 he framed a painting. I saw him last on January 3. He said, "I hope I see you again." The next day I flew back east, and he died two weeks later. I have a lot of powerful memories of Scott. One is when he dropped in on a very cold February night in 1988. He unfurled his paintings like maps. They were covered with lines and color; like Paul Klee's or Kandinsky's, his simple designs trembled between abstraction and suggestions of dreams or parables. I am sorry Scott won't be able to explore the territory he was beginning to map out in his work. I loved Scott. He was the reason I became an AIDS activist.

Thanks to Dan Kane, who provided Scott with boundless love and support in the last two years. **—Mark Harrington**

Bill Sherwood, *Parting Glances* Director

Bill Sherwood, screenwriter and filmmaker, died February 10 from complications related to AIDS. He was 37. Sherwood was writer and director of the 1986 independent feature, *Parting Glances*, perhaps the best and certainly the most widely seen movie about the lives of New York gay men in the 1980s.

Sherwood was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Battle Creek, Mich. After receiving his high school degree from the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy, he came to New York in 1970 on a scholarship from the Julliard School, where he studied composition under the tutelage of Elliot Carter.

Unhappy with the limited world of academic composition, Sherwood left Julliard in 1972 and soon found a new passion in the film program at Hunter College. He began making short films, earned a degree in film production in 1978, attended U.S.C.'s graduate film program and began working at a series of jobs on the fringes of the entertainment business, including editing trailers and directing music videos.

He continued to make his own films and work on original, feature -length screenplays. In 1982, his short, avant-garde *Variations on a Sentence by Proust* was selected for WNET's Independent Focus series and won awards at the London International and other film festivals. One of his two completed screenplays was optioned but never produced. Sherwood then conceived *Parting Glances* as an independent project he could himself direct, raising the necessary funds largely from friends. The film opened the New York Gay Film Festival in early 1986 and started its long theatrical run shortly thereafter. Most reviewers lauded the film, and it found an immediate audience, speaking directly to many New York gay men in a way previously unheard of in commercial cinema. It was a sharp, funny, deeply felt movie with an implicit awareness of the "issues"—coming out, separatism, monogomy, AIDS—but not tied to a political agenda. Sherwood made it clear he wasn't painting a grand panorama of all gay life in New York, nor making a sweeping statement on the AIDS epidemic, and he intentionally set limitations on his story. The movie takes place in one 24-hour period and depicts only those people whose lives are interwoven with the three main characters—young, Upper West Side gay men, one with AIDS.

"The way I work as a filmmaker is that the gayness is assumed," Sherwood said in an interview published in the revised edition of Vito Russo's *The Celluloid Closet*. "Instead of starting out with some passionate cause or wanting to make a noble gay film, I just wanted to make a film. Period." According to a friend, Sherwood didn't know he was HIV-positive while he was making the film, "but he was afraid he might be. Making the film was one way of dealing with his fear."

The fact that Sherwood was able to raise the money to make the movie at all was a tremendous act of artisitic determination. And that such a celebration of gay lives was well received, even in the hinterlands, was a tremendous political and aesthetic victory. *Parting Glances* certainly made Sherwood's talents known to the mainstream film industry. In recent years, he took on a number of script-development, rewriting and directing assignments, including work for Columbia Pictures and the Samuel Goldwyn Company. He struggled to get his own project off the ground, an original screenplay called *Sounds Like This*, which he had taken to a Sundance Institute workshop in 1988, but a deal never materialized. That and Sherwood's other remaining screenplays are still in search of producers.

Whatever legacy may yet emerge from the work he left unfinished, Sherwood set a high standard for gay male narrative filmmaking, now or in the future. His vision will be deeply missed; his masterpiece will be long cherished.
—Bruce C. Steele

Clarke Taylor 1943-1990

Clarke Taylor, director of The Names Project/New York and founding member of AmFAR, died of AIDS in New York City on January 5, after a long and courageous struggle.

Clarke was a man of tremendous accomplishments and high ideals. His life



and work were guided by a social and political consciousness that was formed early on, under the influence of the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers. He was a conscientious objector and anti-war activist in the 1960s and continued working on behalf of nuclear disarmament, racial and sexual equality and gay rights through the next two decades.

Clarke was also a teacher of English and drama, a distinguished journalist, with over 2,000 interviews, features and news stories on New York theater, film and television for the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and New York's *Daily News*. In 1977, he wrote a *New York* magazine cover story on 'gay power' that marked a media breakthrough on the subject.

Clarke was already diagnosed with AIDS himself when he served as the director of The Names Project/New York in 1988. He was also a committed and productive member of ACT UP, as well as a writer and adviser for The AIDS Quarterly, a television series produced by WGBH

(PBS) in Boston. Their January 31 segment will be dedicated to him.

Having recited Clarke's resume, I want to say that I cared a great deal about him, as did his many other loyal and caring friends. Although he and I met through Joe Sonnabend three years ago and had worked together in ACT UP, it was during the PWA Coalition's fiscal crisis in December, 1988 that we became close. In response to my appeal to help at an ACT UP meeting, Clarke put the coalition in touch with DIFFA, in time for us to receive a sizable grant from them. Although he wasn't feeling well and was actually developing toxoplasmosis through that Christmas, he put serious thought into what the coalition could do to improve its financial status.

Following the toxo illness, Clarke developed CMV retinitis and cryptococcal meningitis in rapid succession. His K.S. also progressed. In between, he came to an ACT UP meeting with flowers for my birthday and shared champagne with me when I passed my boards. I ran over to his apartment often, to check his blood pressure or reassure him about some new symptom. Stephen and Clinton cooked for him and drove him to the doctor; other good friends took him to the country, to dinner, to the movies. And lifelong friend, Lynn, talked to him on the phone late in the lonely night.

Clarke got tired.

In many ways, he chose a life of solitude. As Clarke's friends try now to piece together a total picture of him from our individual fragments, we find ourselves learning more about him from each other than we could have from him directly. But in spite of his seemingly solitary struggle, we did not let him die alone.

It was impossible to discuss feelings with Clarke; there was simply no entree. But I did once laughingly tell him I loved him when he was being exasperating about some medical issue. Just for a moment, he smiled. And I'm very glad for that now.

A memorial service will be held on March 3, 1990 at the Friends Meeting House, 15 Rutherford Place, at 3 pm.

—Suzanne Phillips, M.D.

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Los Angeles Journal

Do Progressives Make the Best Homophobes? — *Inside the Tikkun Conference*



by Doug Sadownick

He had biceps and the inner light—and the kind of punk doo that makes our L.A. gay boys look like Axl Rose fans. He wanted to chat with me about the difficulties of "being cool and Jewish in the 90s." I said I'd do my best to help out. I know a euphemism when I see one.

This fateful meeting took place on Jan. 20 at UCLA, where a progressive Jewish conference was in high gear. It was organized by an alternative mag called *Tikkun*, a neurotic-Jewish-Northern-Californian cross between *Mother Jones* and *October*. I didn't come to this lefty conference, or to L.A. for that matter, expecting such juxtapositions. But here they were, as oddly L.A. as the wet-suited Hilter Youths and refugee vatos from El Salvador found hanging-ten on the same Venice surf.

You laugh. But it takes a certain native New Yorker to feel like a native in L.A. No one follows any real rules of protocol in this megacrackpolis and that makes enormous sense to anyone raised on a bad block in New York City. Even the 1,800 liberal Hebes gathered at UCLA to assail Israeli Occupation and create a political alternative to the American Jewish right knew they had few styles in common.

So I felt at home debating with the Spinozas-for-the-90s while cruising for the latest in Jewish white trash, happy that, for once, being simultaneously and profoundly gay and Jewish was not so logically inconsistent. I always resented Judaism for taking my body away from me and honored my homodom for giving it back. So, although I had lost track of "Axl" in my throng of panelists, I made a promise to myself to track him down before the weekend was over.

For all of its pretensions, the conference did impress with its all-encompassing social vision and lack of leftist cynicism. Super-Jew and ex-hippie Michael Lerner, the editor of *Tikkun*, criticized the notion of the rainbow coalition that speaks only to oppressed groups and lambasted the failings of the Democrats with the same gusto with which he assailed Republican capitalism: "Every year 30 million children die of hunger worldwide as a consequence of our current system."

Angered by the Left's reckless attacks on itself and its condescension to the masses, jealous of the Right's monopoly on patriotic symbolism and family values, Lerner proposed a political alternative that was based on the English translation of his magazine's title—to mend, repair and transform the world. It's a vision that relies on Judaism's prophetic traditions rather than its power-hungry 80s legacy (represented by arch-enemy *Commentary*). It's an outlook that's shaped by the infusion of women Rabbis into progressive Judaism as well as the way in which feminism has moved secular and religious thinking away from its emphasis on macho-man transcendence to goddess-like immanence and compassion.

Lerner, Betty Friedan, Peter Gabel and Rabbi Laura Geller all dared Jews to once again take a leading role in multicultural participation. "It is the refusal to accept the world as given, articulated in the prophetic call for transformation that has fueled the radical underpinning of Jewish Life. The great idol smashers, Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, articulated a fundamentally Jewish sensibility at the very moment that they developed a universalistic perspective," said Lerner. He added: "It is impossible to stay true to Jewish tradition without working to repair and transform the situation for Palestinians."

In the panels that followed, most speakers also included gay and lesbian and AIDS issues in their calls for such a "neo-compassionism." "Freedom from slavery means freedom to help the oppressed, including those fighting AIDS," said Rabbi Geller.

But actions speak louder than words. No openly gay or lesbian speaker addressed the general body. And although there were two panels germane to gays and lesbians—"AIDS and the Jewish World" and "Lesbian and Gay Identity and the Jewish World"—there was no openly gay or lesbian Jewish speaker on the AIDS panel. No access was given to people with AIDS. Tedd Siegel, *Tikkun* associate publisher and an openly gay man, found himself "appalled at yet another instance of progressive Jewish homophobia." He had wrested control of these panels from Lerner a few weeks earlier. But it was too late to radically transform them, as it were.

To hear straight Los Angeles City Attorney David Schulman moderate the discussion on AIDS and claim that there was "no concerted effort on the part of the Jews to fight AIDS," was not only ignorant as far as Siegal was concerned, but insulting. I made it clear that if the point at this conference was to revive the so-called "prophetic tradition" in Jewish thinking, then gays and lesbians were leading the way. We had our own contemporary reb in the figure of Larry Kramer as well as in the women and men of ACT UP.

When I was a member of ACT UP/NY there were plenty of Yids fired by a historical legacy of battling injustice. Now, in L.A., noisy

Jews form a part of ACT UP/LA disproportionate to their representation in the population of La La land. Isn't the motto Silence = Death partly inspired by the world silence that accompanied the holocaust? Isn't ACT UP just the example of pluralistic, democratic, radical grassroots organizing the Tikkuners aspire to?

But this heated discussion took place separate from the general body plenaries. The same ghettoization took place the next day when L.A. lesbian Rabbi Dennis Eiger moderated a discussion on gay Jews being "twice blessed" as opposed to being "twice oppressed." As the only openly lesbian rabbi ordained by the reform movement, and one of three female rabbis in Southern California, why wasn't she given an opportunity to speak to non-gays and lesbians?

"The hypocrisy of the Tikkun framers is evident," said Siegal. "We have to fight it."

Oppression is ugly stuff, but it can sometimes inspire, too. Our numbers grew to nearly 100 during the weekend as word got around that pissed-off fags and dykes were hanging out for meals, drafting angry letters to *Tikkun*, plotting ways to threaten the Tikkuners to make good on their calls for pluralism, interrupting panels to make our point, cornering Lerner in the hallway to make our anger known to him. Yes, outraged lesbian and gay Jews valued the politics of *Tikkun* too much to walk out of the conference. But writer Robin Podolsky struck a chord when she said that "Lerner's fetish for family values needed some reconstruction work." Our involvement in ACT UP had taught us that gay people aren't just responsible for ourselves, but also for the world. Such musing not only segues into Lerner's, but could also teach him a thing or two.

At the last meeting, I saw Axl. He was eager to contribute to the actions planned against synagogues not addressing AIDS, but made nervous by the predictable ogling he attracted. He slipped me his number, before slipping out of the meeting, forgetting to take his Peace Now button. I smiled. Martin Buber speaks of knowing one's Jewishness by sensing a community running through your blood. When you're hot-blooded to begin with, only the goddess knows how many communities you're capable of carrying around inside, and how much trouble-making such contemporary alchemy can inspire. ▼

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New-speak and Sexual Politics in the Midst of a Plague

by Stuart Edelson

Lately, I've been making my rounds of HIV seminars. The last one I attended was for the purpose of defining and eroticizing "safer sex." It was organized by the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and took place at The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

For several hours, I was one of about 80 gay men, of every type and persuasion, who were asked to express feelings about sex and to play games designed to reorient us to safer practices. Besides giving the grimly assembled an opportunity to giggle a bit (something of inestimable value, these days), I didn't feel much else was accomplished. What I did come away with was the shocking impression that stereotypical attitudes continue to prevail to the detriment of us all.

Despite the diversity of people present, the evening was geared exclusively towards anonymous, promiscuous "gay-male-sex-as-usual" illustrating that, despite all the horror that's taken place, there has been no serious attempt to rethink the gay-defining "party-line." We gays are still seen to acquire our identities by being other than the classic heterosexual model, i.e. romantically in love and married, something useful to many in the early 1970s, but of highly questionable value today.

In an age in which the pleasure principle and casual sex with multiple partners should be discredited as the reason HIV has advanced throughout the community, the leader of the safer sex seminar implied that the product he was selling, sex with condoms, required no radical alteration of one's sexual habits, however many men they involved.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and are not intended to be guidelines for safer sex.

Practices now described as "safer" were, a while ago, called "safe." I wonder what the next qualifying term will be? And, can we afford this sexual new-speak at a time of crisis? The fact is that much of what is referred to as "safer sex" comprises common sense. A condom is, after all, merely a micro-thin piece of highly destructible plastic, a hell-of-a-thing to hang one's very life on. It's only horny desperation in us that lends any credence to a belief that you can have intercourse with it on and be safe—pardon me—"safer." Much of what's advocated isn't, at all, safer but highly dangerous to, at least, the uninfected and, probably, everybody.

At the core of this deception is the patronizing feeling, among health strategists, that gay men are too weak-willed, childish, stupid or sick-in-the-head to be expected to act sensibly after sharing all the known facts, as brutal as they are. Fear of alienating people with the traumatizing truth has kept the discussion of HIV much lower-key than one might expect when dealing with a life-threatening disease. Logic alone dictates that until we have more information, there are practices, like anal sex, that should be entirely abandoned. If the people responsible for disseminating information about HIV to high risk groups believe that anything useful will be accomplished by cajoling us into doing something "safer" rather than nothing, they are, themselves, in a state of denial. Both incomplete precautions and no precautions at all can lead down the road to HIV.

The task confronting health educators is formidable, to be sure. I have grave personal doubt about the effectiveness of HIV education among certain people, whatever form it takes. These doubts stem from more than an acknowledgement of the consuming nature of the sex drive in men. The above-mentioned litany of cretinous failings will account for why there will always be some who won't give up risky sexual practices. For others, the expediency inherent in closeted sex will be the reason (i.e. doing it on the sly, where and when putting a rubber on isn't always practicable).



The Offending Item?

Other factors make it difficult convincing people to do the right thing. Danger in pursuit of sex isn't exactly new to gay men. Many of us have always taken risks, not only to our reputations but to life and limb itself, to get-it-on with our fellow man. For some, risk fulfills either self-destructive tendencies or, for complex reasons, constitutes an important part of the thrill. There is sadly, in spite of a feeling of community that's developed out of the HIV emergency, hardly a consensus of caring among men (not all "gay") who have sex with other men. Many stigma-centered devils inhabit our psyches-under-siege. That terrible self-loathing and guilt that

characterized past generations seems to have resurfaced, if it ever truly disappeared. Can we realistically hope that concern for the safety of a stranger, for whom we may feel ambivalence, will significantly motivate "safer sex?" I, for one, can't forget that, over the years, a large part of my gay-life experience included encounters with men who either wanted to hurt me, or used me appliance-like. There will always be deaf ears to truths and calls for caution, no matter how forthright.

But the people who showed up at that seminar the other night, and the majority of gays, are intelligent, motivated and possessing the sober maturity that only terror creates. We needed to know the truth with which to make informed decisions about how to live our lives, as fully as possible, under circumstances that promise to be with us for the forseeable future. There was no place that evening for misinformation, half truths, denial and wishful thinking. That's what we chose to leave behind when we ventured out of our houses.

When these experts talked about the safety of deep and prolonged "French" kissing, for instance (a form of exchanging bodily fluids), they cited the "fact" that there isn't evidence of one case of transmission of HIV by this method. The assertion ignores the reality that the whole study is still in its infancy and subject to frequent revision. They went on to insist that the small amount of HIV found in saliva would require swallowing anywhere from a large beaker to a swimming pool full of it to infect anyone. Even if I could forget that we're talking about microbes, and that one needn't be exposed to more than a few or, theoretically, one in order to become infected, I would have to remind us that saliva is only the largest part of what inhabits our mouths. One needn't suffer from chronically bleeding gums for there to be small amounts of blood present at any given time, particularly when there's sucking and thrusting going on between two impassioned mouths.

Credentials, truckloads of expensive printed pamphlets and the best intentions in the world do not, alone, create credibility and trust. The professionals advising us have the obligation to go beyond the latest "data" and employ some common sense. The two-minute life span of HIV, out of solution, may be a comfort with regard to casual contact, but it is a substantial length of time when the human tongue is licking the body during sex. The advice, "on me, not in me," may not always be as safe as it's made to sound. And if forms of "safer sex" are potentially dangerous, engaging in them with many men will endanger many men.

When will the-powers-that-be feel we are sufficiently grown-up to appreciate the seriousness of the situation we find ourselves in, so that they can advise us, without apology, to err on the side of EXTREME caution? No French kissing, no anal-genital or oral/genital/anal sex, with or without a condom, fellas, until further notice! When one's life is at stake, no pill can be too big or too bitter to swallow. Until there's an HIV vaccine and a cure, the good old days of unlimited sexual practices must be relegated to fond memory.

Now is the time to fulfill the promise of liberation—to open up the definition of what is a man. With this must come a nurturing of the many as-

See LIVING WITH AIDS on page 37

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New York City Department of Health

Assaulting HIV:

Protease inhibitors take new route of attack

by Mark Harrington

All over the world new drugs are emerging with novel and powerful activity against HIV in the test tube. Almost nowhere in the world are they being tested in humans. Before these new drugs can enter clinical trials, groups like the U.S. AIDS Clinical Trials Group, which is backed up for months with drugs from 1987 and 1988, will have to decide how to prioritize new drugs along with older ones it has not yet tested.

One group of drugs showing laboratory promise, but yet to be tested on PWAs, are protease inhibitors. And, taking a different avenue of attack than AZT, they may prove highly effective.

HIV's genetic sequence programs host cells to make several proteins. Each protein is vital for viral replication. Reverse transcriptase (RT) is the protein which AZT, ddC and ddI inhibit. When HIV invades a cell, RT copies the viral RNA into a DNA copy and inserts this DNA into the host cell.

Thus the effectiveness of AZT and all similar nucleoside analogues is limited to an early stage of the virus' interaction with the host cell—*before* the virus is integrated into DNA. AZT inhibits new infection of cells, but has no impact on virus production from cells that are already infected. And by the time a person becomes symptomatic, millions of cells in the body already contain HIV's genetic instructions. This explains why AZT can only slow, but not stop, HIV's progression.

But there are other proteins which act on HIV's life cycle *after* it has already commandeered host cell operations. What happens first is that, when stimulated by certain chemical signals, HIV in the cell nucleus makes new copies of its core RNA, and the key viral proteins—reverse transcriptase and *protease*—and the other particles which make up the viral core and envelope. Protease is essential for HIV to mature. It slices protein precursors into their final form. If it cannot slice the protein precursors, virus particles are produced, but they are not infectious.

Because protease is smaller than reverse transcriptase, its structure is easier for molecular biologists to determine. Since the genetic sequence of the protease gene is known, researchers could determine the amino acid sequence of protease. All proteins are composed of up to 20 amino acids. How they are attached in sequence determines their structure, which, in turn, determines their function. Using X-ray crystallography and supercomputers, researchers at several pharmaceutical companies and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) discovered the three-dimensional structure of protease.

Protease is a small symmetrical protein. It looks like two open hands joined at the wrist. When the tips of the fingers come together, they snip virus precursor proteins into their functional pieces. Luckily for the drug seekers, protease is very similar to a human protein called renin, which is involved in causing high blood pressure. The two proteins have similar structure and work in similar ways.

Researchers at companies like Upjohn, Merck and Smith-Kline Beecham have spent years looking for renin inhibitors, and what they learned helped them discover substances that, in the test tube, inhibit HIV's protease. These substances are small molecules called *peptides*.

There has been some confusion about peptides. For example, at a hearing last month in Washington, someone was overheard saying "Candace Pert discovered that *peptides* are active against HIV." A peptide is *any protein with less than 50 amino acids*. Candace Pert discovered *one* molecule, Peptide T, which showed possible anti-HIV activity in the test tube. There are billions of possible peptides, and only a tiny fraction of them will be useful as anti-HIV agents.

There are proteins which act on HIV's life cycle *after* it has already commandeered host cell operations.

In *Nature* on January 4, 1990, researchers from Smith-Kline and French Laboratories in Pennsylvania published a paper showing that they had found four compounds which inhibited HIV protease in test tube cultures.[1] Three weeks later, a rival team from Upjohn published their findings in *Science*: a small molecule called U-81749 inhibited HIV replication in cell cultures.[2] U-81749 is only eight amino acids long (by contrast, recombinant CD4 is about 400 amino acids long—much too large to penetrate the blood-brain barrier).

But there are two potential problems. First of all, small peptide chains like U-81749 and the Smith-Kline compounds most likely are rapidly degraded in the body. This may limit or eliminate their activity. Secondly, if the protease inhibitors are not specific to HIV, they may inhibit renin, leading to a loss of blood pressure and subsequent death.

Therefore, to be successful, an anti-protease drug has to have a long half-life in the body, to penetrate infected cells and cross the blood-brain barrier, and inhibit only HIV protease, and not human molecules.

There may be such a specfic compound available. Two weeks ago, ACT UP's Jim Eigo met with Waijan Soo, M.D., Director of Anti-Viral Research at Hoffman-LaRoche. According to Soo, who is deeply involved in research with ddC and other anti-HIV drugs, Hoffman-LaRoche has developed a group of protease inhibitors which block HIV infectivity but leave human protease enzymes alone.[3] Dr. Soo told Eigo that one protease inhibitor may be ready for testing in humans later in 1990.

The only question is who will test them. ▼

1. Meed, T.D. *et al.*, "Inhibition of HIV-1 protease in infected T-lymphocytes by synthetic peptide analogues." *Nature* 343, 1.4.90, pp. 90-92.

2. McQuade, T.J. *et al.*, "A Synthetic HIV-1 Protease Inhibitor with Antiviral Activity Arrests HIV-Like Particle Maturation." *Science* 247, 1.26.90, pp. 454-456.

3. Palca, J. "Shooting at a New HIV Target." *Science* 247, 1.26.90, p. 410.

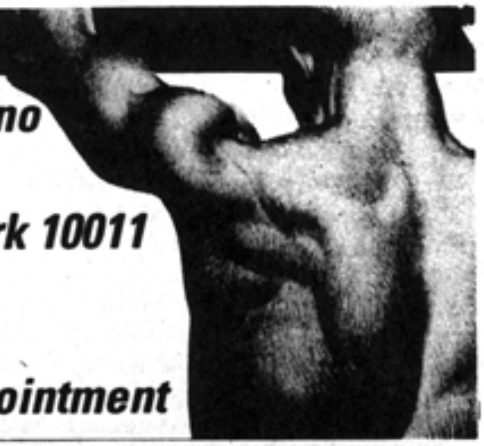
LIVING WITH AIDS from page 35

pects of maleness that have been ignored as completely by our sexual revolution as by the Marine Corps. I'm a man and there's more to me than fucking.

The answer to the current dilemma, for many, of whether to be celibate or sexual, may have to take the form of letting Queen Victoria and not the Marquis de Sade be our guide. Back in the old gal's day, when a bit of stocking was something shocking, the simplest things were hot, and love could move mountains! ▼

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GLAAD TIDINGS

GLAAD Tidings is a program of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. For more information about the material in this week's column, or about GLAAD, call (212) 966-1700.

Did he or didn't he? Only Andy Rooney and reporter Chris Bull know for sure. But virtually everybody's missing the point.

By now you surely know that Andy Rooney has been suspended for three months by CBS for making bigoted public comments. What you may not know, particularly if you live outside of Los Angeles and New York, where the media did a marginally better job of reporting the story, is that he was suspended just as much for his recent string of anti-gay remarks as for his reported racist remark. CBS officials confirm that it was the cumulative impact of the remarks that forced CBS's hand.

The biggest issue to come from this series of events—aside from the Rooney suspension itself—is how dramatically biased against gays media coverage of the story was. Bottom line: One racist remark by Rooney, which he denies making, was covered immediately by virtually every media outlet in the country. A series of completely undisputed anti-gay remarks and the gay community's protests got a big media yawn (except, to be fair, in the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *TV Guide* and on Entertainment Tonight). This is a dramatic double standard.

I and GLAAD want to make it very clear: if Rooney made the racist remark attributed to him, and, for various reasons, we think he probably did, then he would have properly been suspended for that remark alone. As *The New York Times* phrased the point in its intimitable style, the remark went beyond the limit of civil public discourse. To put it bluntly, the remark was disgusting.

But we also think that Rooney should have been suspended several weeks earlier for his anti-gay remarks alone. Some outlets have repeated the malicious and medically incorrect comment made by Rooney on his TV special that AIDS is caused by homosexual unions—rather than transmitted but unsafe sex, straight or gay. Most have completely failed to report that he also said in his syndicated column that he wouldn't want to spend much time in a small room with a homosexual, and in so-called letters of apology that he believes that homosexuals are suffering from a trauma disorder and that their sex acts are repugnant. Going a step further, he has proudly proclaimed that he simply doesn't care what experts like the American Psychiatric Association think about homosexuality—he knows what he thinks and that's good enough.

When the racist remark finally got the media's attention, this organization spent days informing reporters—or reminding them—that there was a gay context to the suspension. Some of them included the information in their stories; others, like the UPI reporter, said that it was irrelevant and unimportant.

It was clearly not irrelevant. Many people are understandably mystified that CBS would suspend Rooney on the basis of a single comment that is in dispute. But, of course, if they knew the facts—that he wasn't suspended for that remark alone—they wouldn't be so confused.

Calling the gay element of the story unimportant is worse, and reveals what's really going on here. The media and society at large do not think that public insults of lesbians and gay men are important because they do not think that lesbians and gay men are important. They do not care that an environment where homophobic insults are considered acceptable is an environment that causes psychological damage and physical damage to gay people. They refuse to see the connection between the public acceptability of homophobia and the epidemic of violence against lesbians and gay men that is occurring as I write and you read this column. They refuse to see the connection between the public acceptability of homophobia and the fact that lesbian and gay teenagers are two to three times more likely than other adolescents to attempt suicide.

The connections are real and indisputable and horrible. And the media—particularly when they are not only ignorant about gay issues, but militantly and proudly ignorant—bear a large share of the blame.

There are so many people to write to on this issue, it's hard to choose. But we suggest two.

First, write to United Press International and tell them what you think of their staff person's opinion that public insults directed at lesbians and gay men by a major television personality are not news.

Write to: Nina Baker, Editor, Financial and Media News, United Press International, New York, NY 10001.

Please note that Ms. Baker is not the only person we spoke to, but is in charge of the relevant department.

Then write to CBS, which is receiving a lot of negative response to the suspension. Tell them you support the suspension, but also that it should have happened weeks earlier.

Write to: David Burke, President, CBS News, 524 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019. Or call CBS: (212) 975-3247. **—Craig Davidson**

FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA

NEW YORK CITY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Gary Miller, Music Director
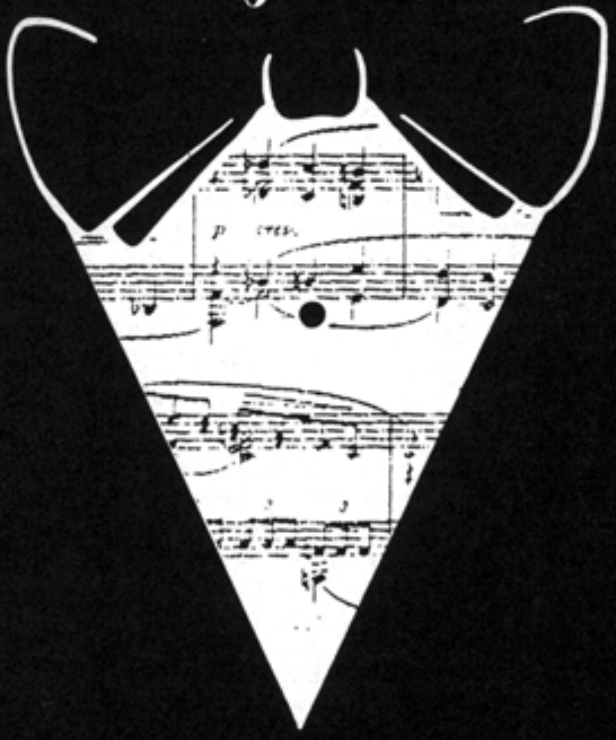
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MICHAEL THOMAS

Top Woman

Urvashi Vaid at the Helm of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

It wasn't too long ago that political insiders thought Urvashi Vaid would be the last person to take over as executive director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in D.C. At the time it was no small secret that NGLTF was a slick, shirt-and-tie act. Jeff Levi, thought by many to be a comparatively conservative operator, was running the show.

And Vaid? Well, she was a hard-core activist. A screamer. A yeller. An organizer. A rad.

Even as media director at the task force, under Levi, she immersed herself in publicity work for ACT UP's and ACT NOW's massive Food and Drug Administration civil disobedience. She had even helped organize the Supreme Court action in 1987 on the weekend of the gay pride march, and had been involved in countless other D.C. actions.

A few years before, Vaid was in Boston getting her law degree from Northeastern, writing for *Gay Community News* and marching, screaming and waving banners for over a dozen organizations—from Lesbian and Gay Pride to Boston's Take Back the Night to Lesbians United in Non-Nuclear Action. And in college, at Vassar, she had been fighting for women's rights and organizing in the South African divestment movement.

At one point she even played bass in a rock band. And no, not just a rock band, but a *punk* rock band. And no, not just one but *three* (Dead Produce, Lezzie-Faire and Church Bizarre).

How then did Vaid, with all of her wonderfully resistant, defiant and radical posturing, get picked by the board of directors of NGLTF, which, like most boards of directors acts like...well...a board of directors?

Perhaps it was because she had brought a much needed sense of urgency and an intensity of thought to NGLTF during her years as media director. Or maybe they got attached to her relaxed, accessible style. Of course, she had also learned how to play the politician during a brief stint practicing law at the ACLU in Washington before joining NGLTF. Whatever the reasons, not long after Levi announced his plans to leave the organization (he soon became a lobbyist for Gay Men's Health Crisis), Vaid was named executive director last August. Though it surprised many, others had expected that she'd get the job. Irv, as friends call her, just *gets* things.

And now, after a full and eventful eight months as director, *OutWeek*'s Washington correspondent, CLIFF O'NEILL, talks with Vaid about NGLTF, gay and lesbian politics and what we can expect in the future.

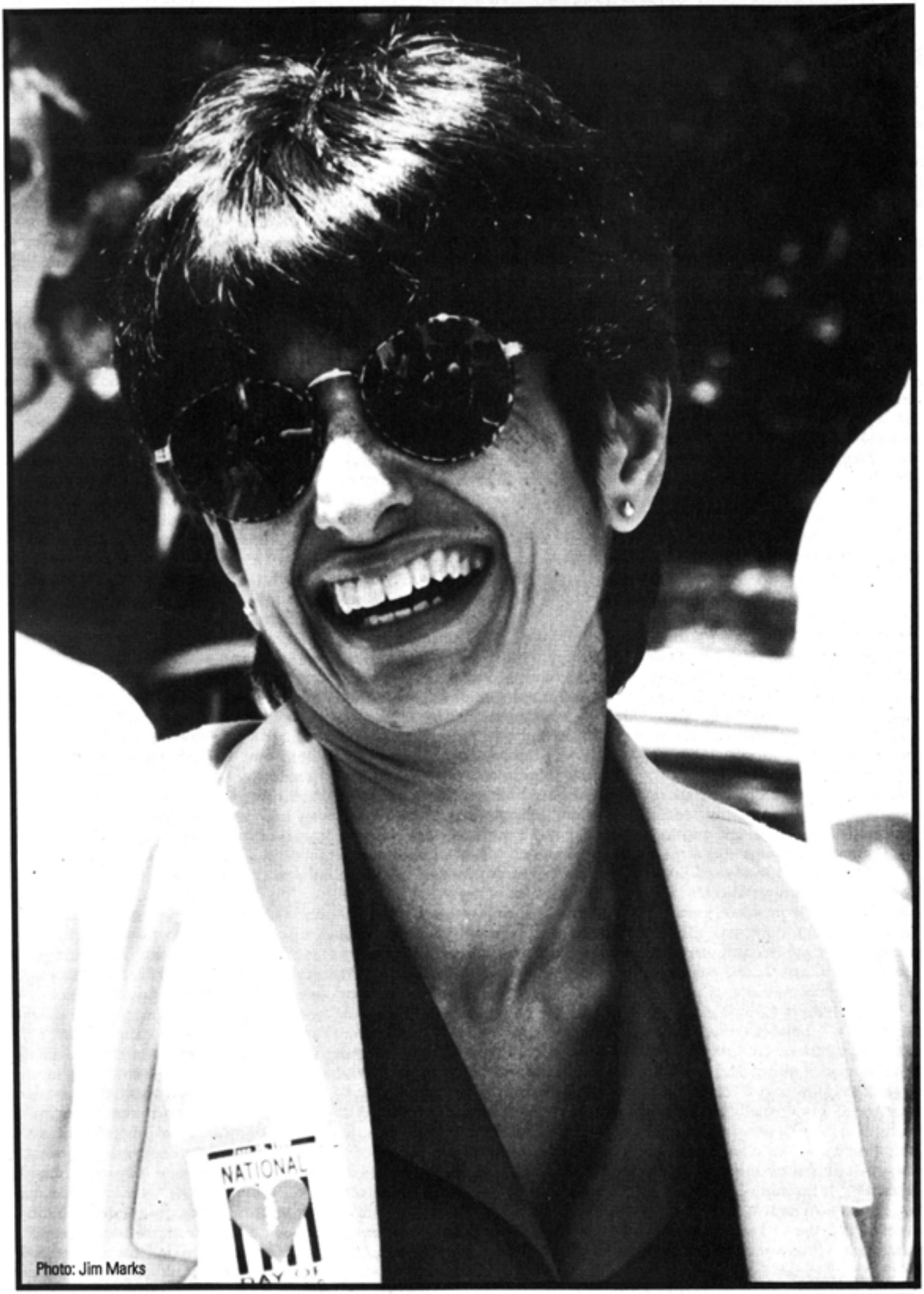


Photo: Jim Marks

Of Urvashi Vaid, the new executive director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force [NGTLF], one wag half-jokingly asked, "Is she as intense as she looks in her pictures?" When told about the comment, Vaid laughs, but quickly gets back to the business at hand. Intensely.

"I identify the most as a community organizer," she comments offhandedly, concisely defining her view of political work in two words. And from her history as an activist and her vision for the future of the group she has run since August, it shows.

"[NGLTF] work[s] in a lot of communities where there are not a lot of politically 'out' people and strong gay organizations," she explains. "And one of the things we're trying to do is to actually organize statewide gay and lesbian organizations. It's the missing link in our movement: the lack of a strong statewide organization that is, in essence, a mini version of the task force in every single state."

And without that sort of cooperation between the Washington-based task force and gay and lesbian activists on the local level, victory on a federal level will be that much more difficult. "We're saying 'We can't operate in Washington without you. We can't go to the delegation from Alabama and lobby effectively if we can't back up that lobbying with 50 folks who will go visit in their home district offices or 1,000 letters from those constituents that will come in and back up what we're talking about.

"And we can't even identify those constituents until there are functioning gay and lesbian organizations, political clubs, whatever they might be—social clubs [on the state and local levels]. We have to work with what we've got."

But the biggest problem towards achieving those ends, she says, is that most lesbians and gay men just don't see themselves as political. "People still have today a very narrow definition of politics [and] what it means to be political," she says, drawing out the vision of what she sees as a major nemesis of the gay and lesbian community nationwide. "I think that's an obstacle to organizing around the country. [The idea that] the person who is running a Metropolitan Community Church in some rural community in the Southwest doesn't view themselves as tied to a political movement I think is the challenge that I'm trying to address in this organization and [the challenge] that this organization is trying to address around the country. It's a challenge to us because we have to broaden people's definition of what it means to be political.

"Politics isn't about lobbying alone," Vaid emphasizes, using both hands for emphasis. "Certainly that is part of it, but to be gay in this society today *is* to be political. And that's a message people need to take in: that they can make their contribution in a wide range of ways."

As an example of how people contribute to change, she brings up the "brilliant" work the gay and lesbian community has done around AIDS policy, adding, "Even though the government is still not doing enough."

"You're not going to get anything but that kind of line from me. I do believe that the Reagan administration was criminally negligent and the Bush administration continues to be alarmingly silent on some key issues, or has taken the wrong position on some other issues. But that said, the gay and lesbian community deserves a tremendous amount of credit for [its] work.

"I think that the community-based response [to the epidemic] by AIDS service organizations [is] a testament to the ability of the gay and lesbian community to pull together to take care of [its] own... We had to do it, and we've done it.

"And to some extent AIDS is not the same issue as gay and lesbian rights," she cautions, "but to another extent, the whole way the health crisis has been treated is a by-product of anti-gay prejudice. So when I see institutions that come out of the gay community surviving and growing, and I see advocates, whether they're from ACT UP or whether they're from the Gay Men's Health Crisis or the AIDS foundations or anywhere, and I see those people being respected and listened to at the federal level, I see us all winning as a gay community, because [although] AIDS health policy issues aren't identical to gay and lesbian freedom, they sure are a big part of that agenda."

And, as the first lesbian of color to lead a national non-ethnically defined gay and lesbian organization, she points out that she is particularly aware of how that "agenda" has changed in response to AIDS and, more recently, the threat to abortion rights nationwide.

"If you look to the past," she says, "lesbians and gay men have functioned as two separate camps that had very little to do with each other. There were few of us that were working together in mixed organization, but too few.... I think the *Hardwick* decision [upholding state sodomy laws] and [the] *Webster* decision [allowing increased restrictions to abortion rights] changed that landscape, because it made people realize, 'Whoa, it's connected.' The right of a person to lead out their sexuality or live free from government intervention, free from the dictates of the state, are the same if you are a gay man or straight woman seeking an abortion. We're talking about individual control over sexual choice, over reproductive choice.... Certainly, legally, the right to privacy for us as gay people derives from the same source as the right to privacy [in regards to] who makes the decision about an abortion."

Yet, she is equally aware of the resistance among some in the gay and lesbian community and to including abortion rights on the gay and lesbian "agenda."

"And whatever people who are reading this piece think about abortion, whatever decision they might make in their lives, that's not the issue," she emphasizes with her standard fierce look. "We're not trying to dictate that decision. What we're dictating is the choice to make that decision. And saying that the choice should be made by those individuals.

"I think there are too many gay people who still get confused. ...I think you have to strip it down to the essential element of state control over individual freedom and sexual and reproductive freedom. And if you can get indignant about the government's ability to regulate an artist and the content of [her or his] art, you should get just as indignant about a government's ability to regulate the wombs of women."

In her demeanor and speech, one can only get the impression that here is a person with a deep personal commitment to her issues. And from what she says, it becomes clear that it is because she lives them every day. "My vision of gay liberation incorporates some other key issues that I cannot separate out for myself because I am a woman and I am a woman of color," she says. "I can't separate out racism and sexism from being gay. They are integrated in a very immediate way for me. And I hope that I can articulate that better as I go along, so that people can understand that I think these connections...are real."

And by being in this new found position of leadership, she hopes she will be able to act as an example to other les-

bians in the movement. "I hope that my visibility in this role as a lesbian, and a very outspoken one, will be an invitation to women [who] thought that organizations like this one [weren't] places for them," she says. "I hope that they will now see that they are, and what we're about is issues that have direct relevance to women and men."

It's all about leadership, she says. Assuming it and recognizing it.

"I've heard for a number of years people bemoaning the fact that there are not leaders," adding in her most often heard complaint, "'Where are all of our national leaders?' they ask. Well I'm sick of hearing it. I think it's a bunch of crap. I think people who say that have a problem acknowledging leadership would never bestow the mantle of leadership if it was staring them in the face. I say it's crap quite bluntly, because I travel all over the country and I see people who are my leaders at the grassroots level all over the country.

"Leadership to me is about several qualities," she explains. "It's about qualities like individual initiative, vision and courage. Those are three elements that many people working in the gay and lesbian movement have, whether they're the pastor of a religious church, or whether they're the head of a gay *bowling league*.

"I think we have to de-mystify [leadership]," saying that what really is the problem is that most gay and lesbian leadership goes unrewarded and unrecognized.

"One of the things that I think about leadership is [that] so much of what society recognizes to be leadership is in fact moral and political cowardice. Look at the people on [Capitol] Hill!" she adds. "Do we want to call them leaders when they are in effect cowardly on so many issues and won't take a stand. Is that what we mean by leadership?...Is Peter Jennings a leader because he's on TV every night? What do we mean by leadership? The fact is that most of our leaders are not only unacknowledged by us as leaders, they are unrecognized, they don't get the coverage, they don't get the visibility [so] that the folks in New York could actually see that we've got some dynamite people in, say, the Black gay community in Atlanta.

"I think different people have different visions of who they would follow as a leader. Some men would probably never 'follow' me because I'm a woman."

She pauses. "I don't mean follow," she mentions. "I guess I'm using traditional frameworks, and I'm trying to get away from some of that. But what I mean is that there are other things operating when people say we don't have any leaders than the fact that we don't have people out there who are qualified."

To prove it, she lists at least three dozen people from D.C. to Tennessee she says would be glad to call her leaders. Then she breaks the pace, prefacing another issue which sticks in her craw.



Photo: Cliff O'Neill

"I'm going to say something else that is going to sound controversial or stupid," she begins, "but I think coalition as a form is a dead-end. What I'm looking for is not coalition, but the recognition that we're part of the same movement. It's not the women's movement over here, and the Black civil rights movement over here and the gay movement over there, but that the three are linked in an integrated kind of way,...the issues that are of concern to those advocating for civil rights are the same issues...our movement seeks. Whether it's the reform of Medicaid so that more people get access, whether it's national health insurance, or whether it's reproductive choice, they are the same issues increasingly. There is a common agenda developing.

"What I've seen...is that coalitions don't mean that your allies will stand with you beyond the coalition. What I want to work towards is not just the coalition around housing, or around family, or around hate crimes, but a broader 'we stand together' kind of framework. I don't have a word for it yet.... [But] it is something beyond the coalition politics as we've known them in the 1980s."

It's going to take that kind of unity with other movements that will overcome the "negative climate" in Washington, says Vaid. "But, even though it's such a negative climate," she adds, "I feel incredibly optimistic and positive about our community and our movement. Sure, we're going to see a lot of setbacks. Remember, it took the women's suffrage movement 100 years to get women the right to vote. We have to remember that these things take a long time. And our ultimate acceptance in society will not come in my lifetime. It may not come in any of our lifetimes. I hope many of us will live to see victories that are even more significant than the ones that we've achieved right now, but I have kind of an abiding faith that our time will come."

But how will that happen?

"I can't stress the importance enough of people signing up, being counted standing up for our own institutions and our own political movement," she insists. "There's a huge middle ground between coming out and copping out.

"Coming out is not an end point, it is a process. It goes on and on and on. I'm the head of this organization," she notes, "[and] I'm still coming out each time I sit down next to somebody on a plane and they say, 'What do you do?' I'm still coming out to mainstream media [and] to politicians every time I express what I do and who I am. But that's one extreme.

"The other extreme is copping out. 'Oh, I can't make a difference anyway.' 'Oh, these political people bore me, I'm not going to a meeting. I'm just going to lead my life.' 'Oh, she's too radical,' or 'He's too conservative.' That's where we cop out. We write off people. We write off our own people and we write off our own ability to win. So, what I'm putting out...[is] that there's this huge middle ground where each person's individual initiative and donations and contributions as a volunteer matters a great deal."

And with a membership now numbering over 17,000, she intends for NGLTF to be a big part of that. "I'll tell you that 17,000 as a numerical base is much more than we've had in a long time and we're going up," Vaid says. "But I want to push it. I hope by the time I leave, we'll be well into the hundred thousands in terms of membership because that's the direction we need to go in to truly—" she pauses, again to contemplate, and again to retort concisely.

"To win." ▼

A Gathering of Souls

By Nicholas F. Cimorelli



FEELING GOOD — Marianne Williamson (middle) surrounded by the center's volunteer staff.

The Manhattan Center for Living: A Place That Offers Support, Friendship and a "Healing of Hearts"

Last September the doors to a new space opened just south of Astor Place, embodying the culminated efforts of several unique members of the community.

The Manhattan center For Living is a space that was created to provide free non-medical support services for people who are dealing with the emotional realities of life-threatening illness and grief. It is a community-based, non-profit organization whose services and programs are all conceived and put forth by volunteers offering themselves in an effort to give support and encouragement.

According to Bob Taylor, administrative director of the Center, roughly 50 percent of those served there are lesbian or gay. In addition, there is a volunteer staff of about 400 individuals of which Taylor estimates 70 percent are members of the lesbian and gay community. It is Taylor's hope and vision that the future will allow for other centers to be formed around the city along with an upstate "country place" extension for the Manhattan Center. He also views the center as a space that will lend itself to ongoing networking and interfacing with the other service organizations in our community such as Gay Men's Health Crisis, God's Love We Deliver, The New York Healing Circle, S.H.A.R.E., etc.

The center was founded by Marianne Williamson, a bi-coastal teacher and lecturer on a philosophical thought system internationally known as *A Course in Miracles*. The course, the goal of which is the attainment of inner peace, is a self-study system of spiritual psychotherapy that is contained in three books. Williamson teaches the basic priciples of the course and its applications in everyday life. Of course one is immediately curious and eager to ask why Williamson, a heterosexual woman of Texas origin in her mid-30s, would find herself so intimately engaged with the challenges of the lesbian and gay community in New York City.

Williamson began giving lectures on the course in L.A. where she currently resides, and in November of '87 she founded the Los Angeles Center for Living, inspired after a friend was diagnosed with breast cancer. The friend was told by her doctor that she had only six months to live. She told Williamson that she wanted someone to help her die. It was through this experience that Williamson was guided to oversee the formation of the L.A. Center. In the three years since, she took several trips to New York to lecture about the course. On one such trip a thought flashed through her mind while walking down the street that Manhattan should also have a center. It was with this brainstorm—and a subsequent matching grant of $50,000 from gay record company president David Geffen—that the seeds were planted for what is now the Manhattan Center for Living.

Williamson sees the gay and lesbian community as being in a state of crisis and on the cutting edge of social change. She says she has found gay people to be in the forefront and believes that "you deal with what is in front of you."

She describes the center as a "church in the most profound sense—a gathering of souls" and a fellowship that was founded in *A Course In Miracles*. The center, however, is nondenominational in scope, as is the course, and welcomes the participation of individuals from diverse walks of life. Williamson's vision of the purpose of the center is for it to offer a profound experience of giving and receiving love, and a healing of hearts. She contends that "death needs to be looked at more deeply...Death can be a crowning experience...It is not a dirty word. Accepting death is not resignation, it helps us to relax."

The Manhattan Center currently holds weekly HIV support groups, and on this subject Williamson is hopeful and optimistic. She asserts that just as cancer is no longer a death sentence, a positive HIV status is "a manageable condition." She maintains, "We need to remember why we are here, we need to learn how to live and live fully."

The center is open to anyone with a life-threatening illness, any loved-one of someone ill, any caretaker to an ill person and anyone feeling grief due to the loss of a loved one. Its services include classes in: living, healing and dying; spiritual and psychological counseling; art and music; bodywork; nutritional consultation; children's programs; support groups; communal meals and homebound services. To help cover the cost of operation, a modest contribution is asked of everyone using the center's activities and facilities. The suggested donations range from five dollars for groups to $15 for individual counseling and bodywork. Services, however, are free for anyone who cannot afford to make a contribution and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The center is open seven days a week from morning until evening. Within its weekly program of events are: shiatsu, Swedish message, rebirthing, physical therapy, grief support groups, Reiki, reflexology, acupressure massage, chiropractic, Hatha yoga, HIV + support groups, nutrition and AIDS, MariEl healing, T'ai chi, Alexander Technique and Cooking That Heals. Every Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm there is a HEAL Meal (Health Education AIDS Liaison) serving natural dinners ($10 suggested donation; reservations limited to 50 people). ▼

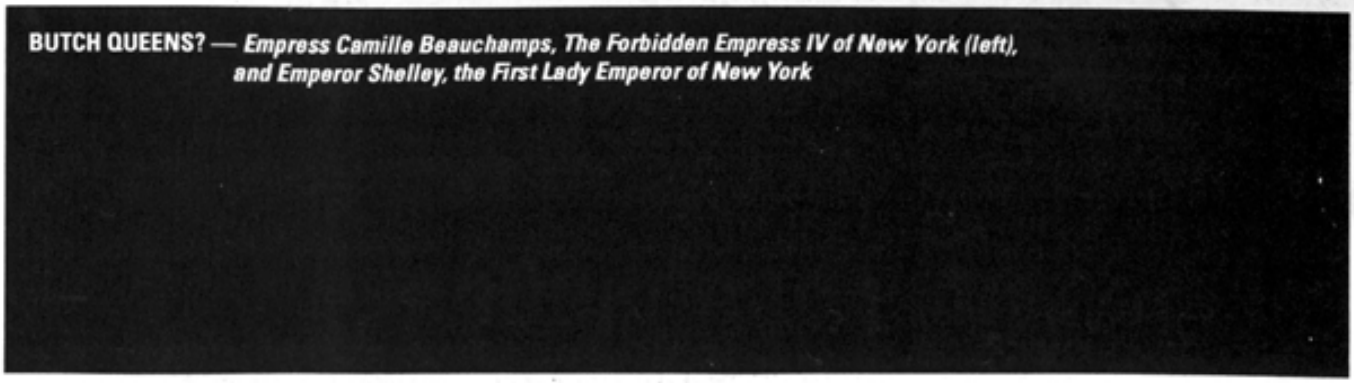
The Manhattan Center for Living is located at 704 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY 10003. For further information about its programs or if you would like to become a volunteer, please call (212) 533-3550.

Crowning Glory

The Imperial Court of New York Celebrates the Annual Night of a Thousand Gowns

by Liz Tracey





BUTCH QUEENS? — *Empress Camille Beauchamps, The Forbidden Empress IV of New York (left), and Emperor Shelley, the First Lady Emperor of New York*

You arrive at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, splendorous in your ball gown. You have cocktails, admire the other attendees' attire, chat with friends and revel in the atmosphere of elegance surrounding you. At the chosen time, the members of the court are presented, each with their court titles. Lady-in-waiting, Lord, Princess. At midnight, the Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of New York are announced, inducted and presented to the ball. From then on, it's dining, dancing, entertainment. Except there are a few things you should know. A lot of those fabulously beautiful women are men. Some of those in full formal menswear aren't men and the regal nature of the ball is not just for show; it's to raise money for gay and lesbian community organizations. This is the Night of a Thousand Gowns.

Always a benefit, the colorful bash is held annually by the Imperial Court of New York, one court in an entire system founded in 1965 by Jose Sarria in San Francisco. That name may not be wholly unfamiliar to you. Jose was the transvestite who was one of the pioneers of the gay liberation movement as we know it. She ran for San Francisco Supervisor, and while not winning, certainly did well for a drag queen's first time running for office. She also performed in various clubs, leading the patrons in what would now be considered self-love workshops, all in a celebration of our community. She then founded the Imperial Court System which now has 50 branches in the South, East Coast, West Coast, Canada and the Midwest. In fact, the Idaho AIDS Foundation was founded by the Boise Court.

The events held by the different courts around the country serve a number of purposes. First and foremost, they raise money for different gay and lesbian community organizations. Recipients in the past have included Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Community Health Project, Heritage of Pride and the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Secondly, they provide an opportunity for the gay and lesbian community to play out, and subvert the heterosexual function of a royal ball; and last, but not least, it's a good excuse to get that dress out of the closet (and into the streets).

The New York Imperial Court was founded on June 23rd, 1986 by Vivian Shapiro and George Dudley as a philanthropic organization.

While the perception held by many is that Night of a Thousand Gowns, as well as the court system as a whole, is an exclusively male enclave, in fact, a number of women in addition to Ms. Shapiro are involved at all levels of the event. Indeed, this year, the first woman Emperor, Shelley Shusteroff, will be crowned, along with a male empress. Barry Davidson, outgoing emperor and President of the Board of the Imperial Court of New York, takes pride in having "pushed" for a woman this year. "It's not about drag, it's about fantasy," he says. According to Davidson, more women will be attending this year than before, perhaps motivated by the inclusion of women in the more visible roles of the court and Ms. Shusteroff's appointment.

One way that the court outreaches to the community is through bar runs (outreach in bars and nightclubs), done this year by the outgoing Empress, Chene, and Julie, an unbelievably voluptuous blonde bombshell dragster and member of the court. As Davidson tells it, when they entered the Cubby Hole bar, the women "went wild over Julie." For a lesbian community that still finds itself deeply divided over issues around drag, gender identification and what it all means to women (assuming, of course, that women don't do drag), it may signal an acceptance that the reaction was so warm, and, well, almost...hot.

While it's not all about drag, a number of transvestites (those men who live in women's clothing) will be joining the ball this year. What may have been a stressed relation between those who dress once a year, and those who do this every morning seems to have relaxed.

The court raises its funds by ticket sales to the ball, and the sale of titles in the court. The money raised by the event goes to the beneficiary agency, to pay costs, and there's "$30.00 left over in the bank account," according to Davidson. This year, the money will be raised for the Hetrick Martin Institute.

The court has begun to gain visibility in its mission: Its presence at the AmFAR masquerade benefit had mainstream gossip columnists falling all over themselves. And, as in the past, the court hosts the 96th water station (as nurses and doctors) during the AIDS Walk, attends the Garden Party in full Regalia and has a float in the Gay Pride Parade (winning Most Beautiful last year).

The Imperial Court has also opened up the nomination process. For the first time, the Emperor and Empress of 1991 will be chosen among members of the court by members. A virtual talent search will be undertaken, with members attending bar contests, beauty pageants, and other events to glean possible candidates. This is the process by which other courts have run in the past. New York, being younger, is now coming into its own. ▼

The Night of a Thousand Gowns will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Saturday, March 3rd, from 9:00 pm to 4:00 am and is a benefit for the Hetrick Martin Institute. If you wish to attend, tickets may be purchased through TicketMaster (212) 307-7171, The Islanders Club (212) 633-8898 or you may pay by check or cash at the door.



'Dad didn't give him any emotional support'

RICHARD PRYOR'S SON IS DRAG QUEEN

Richard Pryor hasn't seen his son in four years.

He's no looker, but it doesn't stop Richard Pryor Jr. from playing the outrageous drag queen, whose acts include mimicking Janet Jackson (center) and prancing around in garish tights (right).

By Roger Hitts

COMIC superstar Richard Pryor's only son has come up with an outrageous showbiz act of his own — as a woman.

He's a garishly-dressed drag queen who struts his stuff on a makeshift stage, collecting dollars and kisses from both men and women in — of all places — Peoria, Ill.

His stage name is Rainy McKnight, but regulars at the gay Club Peoria say it's no secret that Rainy is really Richard Pryor Jr.

Friends suspect that Richard Sr. may not even know of his son's bizarre stage act, which includes mimicking the likes of singer Janet Jackson. "I haven't seen my father in four years," Richard Jr. told STAR.

The comedian's son — now the unofficial 1990 Miss Gay Peoria — won the title of Club Empress last year.

Wearing a red corset and matching garter belt, he wowed the judges with a lip-synched version of Sweet Transvestite from the movie The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Since winning the title, Richard Jr. has been performing at the Illinois club regularly.

He also works out of town, performing with Miss Gay Springfield at the New Dimension nightclub in Springfield, Ill., the Sea Horse Lounge in South Bend, Ind., and the Two of Hearts club in Carbondale, Ill.

Pryor, 27, lives with his 25-year-old white boyfriend, sharing a modest two-story home near downtown Peoria. Pryor works at WEEK-TV in Peoria, while his boyfriend works for Illinois Bell.

An acquaintance says Richard's boyfriend is "really nice, not into talking about Richard being a celebrity."

A friend adds, "When Richard and his boyfriend walk into the club, everybody knows who they are. Richard's the closest thing we have to a celebrity."

Young Richard rarely saw his father while growing up. "His dad supported him financially, but never gave him any emotional support," a friend says.

He borrowed his stage name from younger sister Rain, who appears on TV in Head of the Class.

Friends say his dad's lack of affection may have led to Richard's flamboyant lifestyle. "It may make him want to do this drag queen bit — but he's good at it. He definitely makes a good woman," says a friend. □

Who's that girl? Meet Richard Pryor, Jr., voted Miss Gay Peoria 1990 and currently reigning as Club Empress at the Club Peorian. *Star* breathlessly reports that he's a "garishly-dressed drag queen who struts his stuff on a makeshift stage, collecting dollars and kisses." *National Enquirer* leers that the younger Prior, known on the circuit as Rainy McKnight, "loves to wiggle suggestively in time with the music and bat his eyes at the male members of the audience. He wears lipstick and a flowing brown wig."

The prior Pryor responded charitably to the revelation (according to the *Enquirer*), telling a friend, "He's still my son — even if he dresses like my daughter." Dad may find it all too weird, but it's certainly playing in Peoria.

—Jay Blotcher



Photo: Michael Wakefield

Dozens of sidewalk tributes to the late great artist Keith Haring surfaced around Manhattan last week, halting every passerby for a contemplative moment.

—M.S.



OUT OF MY HANDS

BY BRADLEY BALL

Dear Brad:

Like so many people I never thought I'd be writing to you but the strangest thing has been happening lately. I can't figure it out on my own nor can I afford a professional so I thought maybe you might be able to help since strange things are kind of your specialty. This all started late one night about a month or so ago. I was almost asleep when suddenly the bedroom was filled with a blinding white light. I thought at first that it was the glare from a passing car but this light was different. It had an eerie, almost other-worldly quality. It lasted for several minutes and then the room was plunged back into darkness. The next night at exactly the same time the light returned only it lasted longer and was accompanied by soothing harp music and I could vaguely make out a hazy figure in the center of the light. The figure seemed to be beckoning to me but then the darkness returned. This went on every night afterwards. Each time the light grew brighter and the music louder and the figure became more distinct until I was finally able to see that the source of the glow was a pale, ghostly collie dog hovering a few feet above the floor. She was so beautiful I wanted to pet her but when I reached out she barked out in alarm and vanished. For the next week she didn't come back and although I wanted to see her again I figured it might be for the best since my super doesn't allow pets in the building. Then earlier this week she returned only this time she seemed agitated and kept barking as though she urgently wanted to tell me something. The harp music mysteriously grew quiet and the beautiful collie said to me, in a voice not unlike Maureen Stapleton's, that she had an urgent message to deliver. She said, and I'll never forget this, "Timmy's in trouble. Timmy's in trouble." She barked once more and leapt out the window, disappearing into the night and that was the last I've seen of her. Her message has me troubled and I feel I should do something about it but I don't know what it means. Do you have any ideas? —**Bernadette**

Dear Bernadette:

You wouldn't believe the commotion your letter stirred up around here. I showed it to my experts and they came back with their same old warning against mixing anti-depressants with gin. When I suggested that I expected a response that was a little more substantial and a little less tedious they dug in their heels and said they planned to keep repeating that message until *somebody* paid attention and said that nobody was going to get paid anything unless they smartened up and started behaving like real experts again and now they're refusing to take my calls. In retrospect, I can see that this confrontation has been building up for quite some time. Before I convinced my editors (with no small risk to my reputation) to take these people on and agreed to pay them *at my own expense* nobody had heard of them but ever since then they've grown mighty big for their britches. Many's the time I've gotten reports that they've been trying to use their dubious prestige to gain access to nightclubs or wheedle complimentary drinks in hotel bars and I guess I bear some responsibility for making their excuses for them and, more often than not, paying the damages. I just kept hoping against hope that once they got these high jinks out of their systems they'd settle down and do some real work. But this time they've left me holding the bag just once too often and I'm all out of excuses. Look, the best thing I can tell you at the moment about this Timmy thing, Bernadette, is to avoid mixing anti-depressants with gin. As for me, I'm going to take a couple of days off and figure out the best way to implement some of the *drastic* changes that, I assure you, are going to be made around here. ▼

Everyone was getting nervous. No one knew what to do. It had all happened so suddenly. They came faxing across the phone lines at lightning speed. And it had all gotten so frighteningly confusing. That's when we decided to keep track with.....

...THE RESIGNATION COUNTDOWN

Asked to Resign...	...by
Details editor Annie Flanders	Conde Nast publisher, SI Newshouse
Andy Rooney	GLAAD
Advocate's Chris Bull	Andy Rooney
The New York Times' Gina Kolata	*The New York Native*, ACT UP
Stephen Joseph	ACT UP
Woodrow Myers	ACT UP
GMHC 's Tim Sweeney	*OutWeek* editorial staff
OutWeek editor-in-chief Gabriel Rotello	several employees of GMHC

Asked to Resign...	...by
OutWeek news editor Andrew Miller	reader Annette L. Hurst
Cher's publicist, Lois Smith at PMK	*OutWeek* features editor Michelangelo Signorile
New York Post's Cindy Adams	*OutWeek* features editor Michelangelo Signorile
New York Daily News' Liz Smith	Donald Trump
Donald Trump	Ivana Trump
Ivana Trump	Donald Trump
Almost everyone else	Larry Kramer

GOSSIP WATCH

By Michelangelo Signorile

I was rather upset last week to read on Page Six (*New York Post*) that, because sales were lagging, Si Newhouse canned Annie Flanders, editor-in-chief of *Details*. Though she had let the magazine degenerate into a ghastly product while she clumsily attempted to mount the social climbing ladder, I was hoping he'd swat the real culprit at that mind-numbing, 80s-esque rag: associate editor Stephen Saban. This loathsome, self-hating, do-nothing columnist spends his nights groveling from club to club in search of drink tickets and other amenities which club owners provide, and then—adding insult to injury—chronicles these escapades in the magazine and shoves it all down readers' throats. Ashamed of his sexuality, he tries to parade humor columnist Cynthia Heimel (*Village Voice*) around as his girlfriend, while his boyfriend lags ten steps behind (one item he probably won't address in his narcolepsy-inducing column). So out-to-lunch is this weirdo that he recently sent out the most embarrassing subscription letter people have ever seen. Last week Chris Chase (*Daily News*) even wrote, "Don't you believe I did right to throw away a letter from somebody named Stephen Saban who wrote, 'Dear Potential Subscriber (or whatever you're calling yourself): I understand you're not reading my column every month in *Details*. Which is why I'm writing this letter instead of sleeping, which I'd rather be doing.' Steve, you old sleepyhead, don't stay awake on my account." (The column obviously even induces narcolepsy in Saban himself).

Of course, the larger problem at *Details* is simply its mere existence in these times. It fit right in in the self-absorbed, excess-ridden 80s, but seems to have no bearing on the 90s, much like Malcolm Forbes' *Egg*. The ins and outs of nightclubland just aren't where it's at right now as more political, important pursuits—finally— take center stage.

Like Saban, Forbes and his puppet editor at *Egg*, Hal Rubenstein, seem to think they can run away from reality forever. MEANWHILE, THIS FUCKING COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE DECIMATED BY A VIRUS, DIRECTLY DUE TO GOVERNMENT NEGLECT AND HOMOPHOBA. Some people say that Forbes has done a lot for the gay community and for the battle against AIDS because he has given Liz Taylor a few fat checks for the coffers at AmFAR. But that's all bullshit—the kind that



gives you lots of photo opportunities and gossip column write-ups. It's absolutely nothing for Forbes to write a check for a couple of million. For him it's bus fare—and an easy ticket out.

Other people in this community, affected by this epidemic, have done everything that they as individuals can possibly do to save lives. For some that has meant giving up careers for a cause, even relocating and uprooting their entire lives. For others it has meant coming out of the closet and confronting the homophobes. For still others it has meant getting their asses into the streets and screaming, or going from house to house, from hospital to hospital as sources of support for people with AIDS. No, the *most* that Malcolm Forbes can do is not write a fat check. What he can do, in addition, is perhaps stop motorcycling with his hunky, leathered friends for one damned minute and look around and see what's happening. What he can do is kick ass at *Forbes* magazine and make his writers and editors more responsible and more proactive in the fight against AIDS. What he can do is scream at his friends in Washington and in the media that THIS FUCKING GOVERNMENT ISN'T DOING SHIT about an epidemic that has killed thousands of people, instead of kissing the asses of the murderous Kissingers and Buckleys and having them over to Morocco for a nice friendly dinner for 500. What he can do is create a magazine with backbone and strong politics that points out the chilling hypocrisy of the times we are living in and attacks the homophobes such as Jesse Helms who are now even trying to kill the gay press, rather than produce this ludicrous, mindless *Egg* crap. WHAT MALCOLM FORBES CAN DO MOST IS STOP LIVING LIES AT A TIME WHEN TRUTH IS ULTIMATELY THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON.

But lies seem to be the order of things. Last week *New York* magazine printed an inflammatory, homophobic, misguided and misinformed piece called, "The Secret Sharer: One Woman Confronts Her Homosexual Husband's Death From AIDS." The story was written by Dorothy Rabinowitz—the Cindy Adams of the feature-writing circuit—known for her slimy, sleazy, sensational sort of journalism, usually about sex and always couched in moralistic tones. "Before the eighties, marrying a man who turned out to be a closeted but sexually active homosexual would be, for most women, a heartbreaking prospect at worst. Today, it is also a possible death warrant," she writes in her lead. So, getting involved with fags is "a possible death warrant?" Right, Dorothy? Isn't *that* what you're saying?

See GOSSIP WATCH on page 53

Out on the Town  With Liz and Sydney

by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokorny

Liz and Sydney: Five ways to make Liz and Sydney scream:

1. Ask us why there aren't more gay/lesbian/cultural/ nightlife/(fill in the blank) events in our column.
2. Whenever you see (or call) one of us without the other, ask repeatedly where the other is, what she's doing and why she's not there.
3. Play "Pump Up the Jam."
4. Call Sydney "Tracey." Call Sydney "Cindy." Call Liz "Sydney." Call Liz "Chastity." Call Liz "That blond boy."
5. Spend all night telling us how much sex you had at the ACT UP Slumber Party, when we had none.

The latest trend in nightlife is revival. Not as in a religious revival, but more along the lines of a revival house. You see, the new clubs aren't really new at all; they are old spaces where old scenes are still rerun and remade to become—presto! magic!—new fun! We visited no less than three reruns—Area (retitled, re-edited and re-released as Quick), the restored Roxy and the largely unedited Girl Bar.

Liz: Chip Duckett opened his Thursdays at the multi-national Quick, where the average patron (or patroness) is overwhelmed by the beer selection: Kirin or Kirin Light. The Thursdays will feature exhibits by different homoerotic artists—the opening exhibit was by **Lola Flash**, a photographer whose work now adorns the weekly bumber sticker-sized invitation, suitable for framing. Other objets d'art include statues and mannequins of half-naked women—which I'm sure were of great interest to all the attractive, perspiring young men cramming the dance floor. An innovative touch was having the go-go boys not go-go-ing, but massaging, hugging and humping each other on platforms above the dance floor. Moving so slowly in contrast to those dancing Quick-ly, they made us very dizzy, and, in a move to avoid passing out on the dance floor, I instead went home and crawled into bed. Believe me, I didn't wait up for Sydney.

Sydney: A Slumber Party was held inside the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center to benefit ACT UP. I arrived after the performances were over and just before everyone paired up to go to (uh, hmm...) "sleep." Boys dressed in sweats or boxers danced around to "Angie Baby" while another ACT UPer showed me Polaroids of all the boys pulling each other's privates out of their respective sweats or boxers. I left just as the backroom action started, being a girl and all. With all the "love" that was shared that evening, you would never know some of these boys were hardened criminals with arrest records as long as their arm.

Speaking of arrest, the police broke up the First Outlaw Party of 1990 at Nathan's Hot Dogs in Times Square by threatening each and every person there with arrest. Reportedly, some of the happy participants were also jostled and and pushed by the police. Since the word was that the event organizer, **Michael Alig**, did not inform Nathan's employees of the party, the police were expected around 12:30. Liz and I, deciding to save our arrest for a more timely event, went to the Lesbian Herstory Archives Benefit.

Liz: Unfortunately, we arrived past a lot of lesbian bedtimes (as we always do) but the hale, hearty party women left were still dancing away, along with a heart-warming number of men who put their money where their politics are and didn't regret it. The main topic of conversation: the ACT UP Slumber Party. Boys talked about sex. Girls talked about how they all chickened out of going, or showed up too late to catch the girls who came early on. **Aldo Hernandez**, a member of Art Positive, also proved himself as a dj, especially when you consider he used a turntable, tape player and CD player.

Later, we went to Roxy for Locomotion, where the crowd was a *crowd*, the music was *loud* and I had a *very good time*.

Liz and Sydney: Girl Bar is back with a change of location and personnel as duely noted on the dj's t-shirt (His t-shirt featured the Girl Bar logo, but the small print which used to read **"Jenny and Deb"** has been amended via black magic marker to state **"Jenny and Nancy"**). Held at Handle Bar, a space obviously too small for the outpouring of enthusiasm, the party was raided by the Fire Marshalls. Once again, adding to the growing number of clubs harassed on a gay or lesbian night.

Liz: What publisher of a l-eggy new magazine came to **Larry Tee**'s Love Machine with a beefy capitalist tool, purchased with the profits of his other periodicals?

Sydney: In the hard-up-for-fun department, Liz and I wandered into Choice, the Lower East Side after-hours house club inexplicably featured in *Egg*, at 6 am Monday morning, only to discover it filled with equal parts dancers and sleepers. We have dubbed Choice, "the most disquietingly bizarre place on earth." ▼



DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR Photo: Liz and Sydney

(l. to r.) Catherine Saalfield, Dee Dee Falcom, Polly Thistlewaite, Jean Carlomusto at a Lesbian Herstory Archives benefit.

GOSSIP WATCH from page 51

So, women should stay away from them? Right? In fact, everyone should stay away from them. Right? Isn't that what you're really saying, Dorothy? MAN, I AM SO FUCKING SICK OF THIS SHIT! IT MAKES ME WANT TO RIP YOUR FACE OFF, DOROTHY! (But, of course, I'm into non-violence.)

The story goes on to tell us how this woman—who never became HIV infected—is totally bummed out that her husband turned out to be gay and how angry she is at him for this. (Ahh, poor, poor baby.) It doesn't matter of course, that *be* actually had AIDS, that *be* was tormented, that *be* died. All of the sympathy in the story is given to little Ms. Yuppie and her baby yup—also not HIV infected. The AIDS Husband (which is how staffers at *New York* referred to the story itself when I called there), is instead guilty of bringing this terrible plague home because he's an uncontrollable fag. By printing this, *New York* magazine's rationale seems to be : "So what if mom and baby didn't get infected—they *could have* been infected with the virus and, besides, now they will be traumatized for their entire lives by this tragedy and of course they definitely warrant nine slick, glossy pages in our magazine because our readership will eat up the story of a marriage wrecked by some evil, AIDS-cursed faggot rather than a story about gays desperately trying to deal with this crisis or entire poor, black families being infected with HIV because, hell, that doesn't sell." And Dorothy Rabinowitz is saying: LOOK AT THIS, ALL YOU WHITE, UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS WOMEN READERS OF NEW YORK. THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. AN EVIL HOMOSEXUAL CAN COME IN AND RUIN YOUR LIFE TOO—AND THEN THE BASTARD WILL EVEN DIE ON YOU!

I called *New York* to speak to someone about the story. Editor and publisher Ed Kosner returned my call.

"We had one of the first cover stories about AIDS. We had a huge story last year about AIDS in New York City. We cover the AIDS crisis a lot," he said. "This was just another story, about this particular woman. It's a decent story." I told him that there were lots of problems with it—that Rabinowitz had mimimal quotes from psychologists about controversial issues (though, grant it, the one shrink she used was recommended by GMHC) and that she should have contacted far more sources. I told him that the story had a definite agenda. And I told him that the story dealt not in the slightest with the issue of safer sex. We're told that this man went around town and to the baths having sex and yet the ignorant, white, straight reader—who normally doesn't give a damn about AIDS and therefore is misinformed—isn't told whether the man was having safe or unsafe sex. Presumably he's having unsafe sex, but, again, the yuppie reader is not told that and is led to believe that *all* homosexual sex is dangerous. That the sex itself causes AIDS. That gays themselves cause AIDS.

"It's not about all of that," replied



Kosner. "It's about a man, a woman and a child." (Gee, thanks for clearing that up, Ed). And about the issue of whether this woman herself should have been thinking of safer sex, Kosner replies: "Why should she? She had no idea he was gay." Again, we come to the old bigoted, misguided notion that it's only gays who have to worry about practicing safer sex.

Rabinowitz, who later called me after Kosner told her about my complaints, was on the same kick, telling me that people who get married just don't think of that and defending this woman's not thinking about practicing safer sex. Meanwhile, thousands of straight people with AIDS have already died and countless more are battling this disease. Oh, but I forgot. They are people of color, and Rabinowitz's yuppie subject was white. And normal, white people just don't get AIDS, right Dorothy?

Dorothy engaged me for over half an hour, trying to convince me—using quite a few different, indirect tactics—that she is not a homophobe, which tells me that she definitely is. And she's the worst kind: the kind that truly believes they aren't really homophobic; the kind that would be immensely embarrassed to be called a homophobe. These are worse than the Jesse Helmses. They are phonies, fakes and charlatans who hide behind facades.

"Look, Jewish people get upset when people say, 'I have lots of friends who are Jewish,'" she told me. "So I know how this sounds, but I want you to know I've seen many men carried out of this building. I don't like it." Spare me, Dorothy! Spare me your bullshit, okay? When I pointed out to you that you used to write homophobic columns for the *New York Post*, your reply was: "Not, *really*." Well, you can't get half pregnant, hon.

Ultimately the real problem with stories like Rabinowitz's lies not so much in what was written but in what hasn't been covered in the particular publication in question. *New York*, like *Vanity Fair*, when it comes to homosexuality, only seem to go for these sensational STORIES THAT WILL SELL—stories about tormented, crazed evil homosexuals ruining their own lives and trying to ruin others. But rarely do we see stories about the real heroes in the community; the real people who are doing incredible things. Rarely do we see stories at all about gays unless it is about some sort of special interest—art, interior design, fashion, etc. And so, the white, upper-middle class yuppie New Yorker only gets one picture of the queer—and it ain't a pretty one.

"We have gay people on staff here," said Kosner. "And have many gay writers who work for us." Oh please, Mr. Kosner. Yeah, and Dorothy has lots of gay friends too. When I asked you—the editor and publisher of a magazine called *New York* which purports to cover the most diverse city in the world and a city with hundreds of thousands of gays and lesbians—when was the last time you put an *openly* gay or lesbian person from this community on your cover, you couldn't come up with an answer. ▼

INSURANCE from page 14

longtime employee of the company whose health care benefits were suddenly and dramatically reduced when it was revealed that he had AIDS.

A motion to dismiss the case, filed by attorneys for H&H, is currently pending. According to David Barr, a Lambda staff attorney, the decision whether or not to dismiss will rest on whether federal law regulating employee benefit plans is interpreted as protecting HIV-infected persons from benefits reduction. Barr said Lambda's attorneys feel confident that H&H will make a satisfactory settlement if the motion to dismiss is denied.

In the action against Galaxy Carpet Mills, ACT UP members from around the country flooded the company's switchboard on Jan. 25. Participants in the action placed calls to executives and workers throughout the company, informing them of the discriminatory policy and attempting to explain the dangerous precedent set by illness-specific denials of health care benefits.

Galaxy, whose health care plan is administered by Allied Benefit Systems, Inc., had set a lifetime cap of $10,000 on reimbursements for medical expenses incurred for treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases unless the affected employee could prove that the illness was "involuntarily acquired." Allied denied having played any role in establishing the benefit structure of Galaxy's health plan.

Anthony Bennett of ACT UP/New York told *OutWeek* that Galaxy had been forced to rescind its discriminatory policy before any HIV-related claims had been made. "We were lucky with Galaxy," he said. "It only took two weeks for them to change their minds, and the contingency plans we'd made [for further actions] weren't necessary."

In a letter to ACT UP, Galaxy Director of Human Resources Jack M. Pounds promised that the company would amend its policy by Feb. 15.

ACT UP's Bennett said that the group planned other such actions in the near future. "We're looking at another company right now," he said. ▼

PWA CONVICTED from page 14

have never been in trouble in my life. I was holding my oldest [child]. He opened the door to [sobbing] and I tried to get him away from my son and he punched me in my lip and I screamed and I said, 'I'm sick and I have AIDS.'"

In related litigation matters across the United States, several people with AIDS have been prosecuted for similar offenses. Gregory Scroggins of Smyrna, Georgia, was sentenced to ten years in prison for allegedly biting a police officer. In Kansas, a man who told two officers he had AIDS and then spit at them was charged with six felonies, including "making a terrorist threat." And in Texas, an HIV-positive inmate was sentenced to life in prison for allegedly spitting at a guard.

A spokesperson from the National AIDS Hotline said there is a very low chance of infection through contact with saliva, but the risk of infection is increased slightly if the saliva is mixed with blood. The spokesperson said there are no documented cases of AIDS spreading through saliva. HIV is transmitted through blood, semen and vaginal fluids. ▼

PWA SHELTERS from page 16

New York City Councilwoman Ronnie Eldridge. Speaking to reporters, Eldridge said, "We can't stand by and watch 'crisis management' become the government that we thought would use careful and long-term planning."

Eldridge said that the implementation of the shelter plan would "send a chilling cynicism through the city," and she appealed to Mayor Dinkins not to go ahead with the program. ▼

AMFAR from page 17

remain in force, the coalition's objective is to persuade the INS that its agents should simply accept a "negative" response and not subject foreign travelers to further scrutiny.

This recommended laissez-faire attitude toward enforcement of the regulation would be equivalent, Flanagan said, to the attitude the INS now adopts toward homosexual travelers. Although it remains technically illegal for the INS to admit gay visitors into the U.S., the agency will only act to prevent a traveler's entry in the unlikely case that he or she declares his or her homosexuality while crossing a border or going through customs.

Flanagan, who studied law at Columbia University and at the University of Toronto, has been involved in AIDS issues for more than five years, and was an active member of ACTUP before moving to Canada to teach at McGill. He has written a number of articles on legal and civil rights aspects of the AIDS/HIV epidemic. ▼

"LEWDNESS" from page 13

told them that the usual practice in such cases—even if actual intercourse is discovered—is "to shine a light on and embarrass those involved, but not to arrest or prosecute them."

According to Lt. Fellner, 20 to 30 arrests for public lewdness are made each year in Riis Park, almost all of them among homosexuals. However, the incidence of such arrests has declined considerably, he said, since nude bathing was outlawed five years ago in a section where it had previously been allowed.

Any complaints of antigay bias against the park police occurred as much as ten years ago, stemming from concerns that police were focusing on homosexuals in that area of the beach, Fellner said. "We explained it wasn't our policy to concentrate only on homosexuals, but only on lewdness or public sexual activity." And, he said, the park police have worked with the New York City Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence project in the past on gay-related violence crimes in the park.

Still, the two friends from Brooklyn say they will persevere. They plan to consult with a lawyer through the *pro bono* legal services offered at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in Manhattan. And if the charges are thrown out, they are at least suing for harassment.

"I just don't think it's right," said Ferina, who is out to his family but has not told all of them about the incident. "No one has ever discriminated against me before, especially the police. I didn't do anything wrong, but now I'm paying." ▼

GCN

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THURSDAYS

	Pride & Progress	**March 1**
10:30 pm	• Gay Week in Review • Act-Up • GCN Close-Up • Sports • Lavender Health	Phone sex lines under fire: with Andy Humm, Gabriel Rotello, *OutWeek*; Kendall Morrison, *OutWeek*; and Norman Siegal, NYCLU
11:00 pm	***The Right Stuff*** • Naming Names • All About Women • Media Watch • Staying Out • Around the Country • Razor Sharp	Profiles: The Gay 90's: Barbara Smith Music of the 90's featuring David Vella

SUNDAYS

	Men & Films	**March 4**
11:30 pm	Reviews of male erotica along with interviews behind the scenes with film stars	Interview with Lee Jennings; Clips from *Secret Action Man, Blackjacks, The Cherry*; Part II of *Fun with the Male Body*

MONDAYS

	Be My Guest	**March 5**
10:00 pm	**Sybil Bruncheon** hosts a panel game show with surprise guests. **Secret Passions** An original gay soap opera.	Clips from Sybil's Closet

Gay Cable Network
32 Union Square East, Suite 1217
New York, NY 10003
(212) 477-4220

Film

Girls on Film



(Clockwise) Suno Yamazaki, Tomoko Makabe and Midi Onodera in *The Displaced View* Photo: Michaelle McLean

"Changing the Subject: An International Exhibition of Work by Black, Asian and Latin Women from Australia, Canada, Britain and the United States." Anthology Film Archives. 32-34 Second Ave. March 1 through 9.

by Monica Dorenkamp

Women Make Movies is all about just that. The largest (because the *only*) national, non-profit feminist media arts organization, Women Make Movies is in its 18th year of collecting, promoting and distributing independently produced films and videos by and about women. For "Changing the Subject," they have selected 18 films and videos from their growing and increasingly diverse collection (including a substantial holding of works by and about lesbians). Ranging from 11 to 108 minutes in length, the works are from Australia, Canada, Great Britain and the United States, and will be shown over a series of four evenings.

The exhibition is, appropriately enough, entitled "Changing the Subject," a task shared by all of these works. Produced by women of color, the films and videos are often (semi-) autobiographical, changing the subject in terms of content *and* in terms of subjective point of view. All of these works—whether autobiographical or not—involve women of color looking at women of color; a re-focusing of the white, male camera eye.

As such, this series is not only a long overdue one, but a rare opportunity to see works which, because they explicitly challenge conventional representations of women and specifically of women of color, are simply never shown.

Although the specific focus shifts from work to work—emphasizing the differences between these works, each of which focuses on difference—consistent throughout them is the strong presence of women's voices telling stories of marginal existence. This is the case even when it is the difficulty of speaking, after so many years of silence, that is being addressed; for all of these works, as works by women, are themselves examples of women speaking. And many of them have created the necessary new spaces from which to do so.

Among the "Re-Visions" offerings from Great Britain is the United States premiere of *Flesh & Paper*, a film by Kenya-born, British filmmaker Pratibha Parmar. Originally made for British television's Channel 4 "Out on Tuesday" series, Parmar's film is a portrait of Suniti Namjoshi, an Indian lesbian poet and writer. The film is visually very beautiful, though in an elegant and understated way. Most striking about it is the overwhelming respect with which Parmar has filmed her subject, allowing her to speak herself, often directly to the camera which does not attempt to appropriate her words or her image. With the exceptions of brief interviews with other Asian lesbians living in Britain and with Namjoshi's lover, the film is entirely in Namjoshi's own voice, as she alternately discusses her life and work and reads from her writings. Interested in how "language invents worlds," it is appropriate that Namjoshi be allowed to (re-)create as much of her own world as is possible in this film (she, at one point, discusses the difficulties inherent in her speaking and writing at all in English, the language, for her, of British imperialism).

Beyond introducing Namjoshi and her work to a wider

audience than she might already have—a valuable thing in itself—Parmar's film also raises difficult questions about women of color's complex relations to their own culture (further complicated for Namjoshi by her lesbianism) as well as to a dominant white culture. Namjoshi effectively conveys what must have been (must be) a shared experience of women of color when, talking about her classmates after she moved to the United States, she says "I realized they were trying to civilize me where I thought they were barbaric."

Issues of colonialization are effectively, and explicitly, addressed in Tracey Moffatt's *Nice Colored Girls*, one of the films from Australia. Moffat is one of the first Aboriginal filmmakers, and *Nice Colored Girls* is a brilliant look at the historical bases of contemporary relations between Aboriginal women and white men. One of the few films in the program which does not have an explicit female voice-over (the women's thoughts and words are titled on the screen rather than spoken aloud), Moffatt nevertheless succeeds in conveying the perspectives of the silenced and oppressed Aboriginal women. She does so by voicing-over, against the contemporary setting of the film, 18th century narratives of the first white and male colonizers of New South Wales. The effect is a startling juxtaposition of present and past histories of exploitation, made all the more powerful because it is shown from the perspective of one of the exploited. Moffatt's presence behind the camera continually undermines the seeming impossibility of escaping 200 years of colonial exploitation.

But Moffatt and Parmar (whose *Sari Red* is also being shown) are only two of the many Black, Asian and Latin women whose works are being shown as part of this exhibition. Many others deserve more attention than space here will allow. Among them are Palestinian-born performance and video artist Mona Hatoum's powerful *Measures of Distance* which superimposes Arabic script-like barbed-wire over images of her body; Chilean exile Marilu Mallet's *Unfinished Diary* which explicitly addresses gender differences as Mallet and her husband, also a filmmaker, argue on camera (he in English, she in French in a literalization of their different "languages") about the "correct way to make films"; and Julie Dash's *Illusions*, about a Black woman executive who is passing for white in a fictitious 1942 Hollywood studio.

Overall, "Changing the Subject" should help change ideas, not only about the experiences of women whose experiences are not our own (whether we are white, Black, Asian, Latin) but also about the sort of work women of color are doing in film and video. These are not only social-issue documentaries. Though some are documentary-like, some almost conventionally narrative, they succeed in offering new ways of seeing; new ways of seeing women as well as new ways for women to see.

In addition to its large distribution services, Women Make Movies is a membership organization that sponsors various workshops for women interested in the production and pre-production stages of film and video. For further information regarding these, or any of their activities, write to them. Women Make Movies, 225 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012. ▼



Writer/Poet Suniti Namjoshi in Pratibha Parmar's *Flesh & Paper* Photo: El Glinoer

Film

Oscar's Gay Affairs

by Bruce C. Steele

The earliest openly homosexual movie role I can find that earned an actor an Oscar nomination was Estelle Parson's lesbian turn in *Rachel, Rachel* in 1968. She didn't win.

Nor did Peter Finch win for *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*. Nor Cher for *Silkwood*. Nor Al Pacino nor Chris Sarandon for *Dog Day Afternoon*—the only movie in which the candid portrayal of two gay lovers earned both performers nominations. Of course, Pacino and Sarandon never got closer to each other than the opposite ends of a telephone line, and their characters were both clearly nut cases, but they *were* gay. For what it's worth.

Since 1986, when William Hurt won the only Oscar ever awarded for a flagrantly gay role (in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*), no performer in a homosexual part has even been nominated. But don't think the Academy is being any more homophobic than usual. The first criterion has *never* been whether the character is gay or straight, but whether the picture is *appropriate* for the Oscar: a movie that oozes with integrity, social import, traditional sentiment and "American" values. This year's big nominees—*Driving Miss Daisy, Born on the Fourth of July, Dead Poets Society* and *My Left Foot*—are all highly *appropriate*. They just didn't happen to have any gay characters aboard. (The absence of lesbians and gay men from most Hollywood films is an endless topic, of course—see, for example, Richard Natale's insightful article on AIDS movies in a recent *Village Voice*.)

Of course, the *first* concern of Academy members who nominate in the acting categories is to honor aging icons they fear might die unrewarded. Then they look for any well-known players starring in that year's big picture, preferably a historical epic like *Patton* or *Ghandi* or *Ben Hur* or *Born on the Fourth of July* (which might have been titled *The Worst Years of Our Lives*).

Those concerns attended to, the Academy sometimes seems to go out of its way to nominate all available deviations from the straight, white, healthy American ideal. Oscar often picks out the handicapped, the deformed, the queer—you know, the *difficult* roles. Depravity and physical defect, Academy voters figure, is hard to get right. For 1989, they selected a paraplegic (Tom Cruise), a man with cerebral palsy (Daniel Day Lewis), a woman driven mad (Isabel Adjani), a terminal diabetic (Julie Roberts), a couple of Blacks and quite a number of Jews. Oscar is egalitarian, after all, and does not value one kind of aberration over another. There may not be any homosexual roles nominated this year, but there aren't any drug addicts or flying nuns, either.

For the typical Academy voter, a "stunning" performance is simply a credible portrayal of a character from far outside their comfortable frame of reference. Larger-than-life historical figures do nicely, as does any role with lots of struggling and yelling and suffering. That's where the gay parts often figure in.

Before *Rachel, Rachel*, closeted homosexual characters were sometimes among the nominees, like Warren Beatty's sexually ambivalent Clyde Barrow in *Bonnie and Clyde*, Peter O'Toole's *Lawrence of Arabia* or Sal Mineo's James-Dean-obsessed teenager in *Rebel Without a Cause*. But in the last 21 years, more openly gay roles have been nominated (and have lost) with some frequency.

Inevitably, the gay parts that earn Oscar bids are most often played for pathos or as serpents in the garden, as in *Rachel, Rachel*. Best picture winner *Midnight Cowboy* garnered nominations for Jon Voight, as a reluctant hustler of homosexuals, and Dustin Hoffman, as his not-quite-lover. They were innocents, and pathetic, as opposed to the two more outwardly-gay characters in the film, who were shamed and physically assaulted. Valerie Perrine's lesbian inclination in *Lenny* was steeped in disgust and

See OSCAR on page 67



(CROSS) DRESS YOU UP IN MY LOVE
"Kiss of the Spider Woman's" Oscar-winner William Hurt

Theater

She/He

New Anatomies by Timberlake Wertenbaker. Home for Contemporary Theater and Art. 44 Walker Street. Through March 4.

by Michael Paller

"Our souls are inside-out and alone," says a cross-dressing woman journalist in Timberlake Wertenbaker's *New Anatomies*. That is the dilemma of anyone at odds with a society's need to set boundaries on behavior, expression and self-identity. It is the story of Isabelle Eberhardt, who, at the turn of the century, left her staid life as a young Swiss woman on the verge of marriage and ran off to Algeria to live, dressed as a man, among the Arabs.

Early on, her mother sings, "I'd rather be a rich man's darling than a young man's slave." Isabelle would rather be no man's, woman's or society's anything unless it's on her own terms. She rarely found that ideal state. In Algeria, the French looked down on her for speaking to the native servants in their own language; the women disapproved of her dressing as a man. Some Arabs were sufficiently outraged at a woman in their midst participating in male rituals that they attempted to kill her (although others accepted her immediately). One might imagine that lesbians, whose company, at least, she occasionally shared, looked askance at her insistence that she "liked boys" and slept with them (although whether the boys knew she was a woman or thought she was a fetching young man is left, perhaps deliberately, vague). A lonely rule-break-

See SHE/HE on page 66



I CAN'T BE SURE... Photo: Martha Swope Assoc.
Kate Fuglei and Colette Kirby

Cabergay

Pictures in the Hall. Eighty-Eights. 228 W. 10th Street. 924-0088. February 26 and March 12, 19 and 16 at 8 pm.

Awash as we are in singers devoting entire sets to one composer, lyricist or lyric-writing team (witness Jeff Harnar's swift ascent with the Comden and Green-inspired "Carried Away"), rarely do composers venture before the spotlight to display their musical wares. Craig Carnelia who has contributed songs to *Working, Diamonds* and wrote the score to the 1982 Broadway flop, *Is There Life After High School?* has decided to test the waters. Joined by singer Maureen Silliman, their show, *Pictures on the Wall*, offers a potpourri of Carnelia-penned tunes which often emphasize and pay homage to a melancholic view of life. The results are a mixed bag that won't set anyone's ears asunder but offer a unique viewpoint on life.

Carnelia is a tall and slightly-built fellow with a penchant for melodic self-reflection. His songs seemed steeped in minor keys and offer the listener little opportunity to soar with a melodic line. Tunes with offbeat titles like "The First 40 years" and "A Kid Inside" chronicle life's ups and downs from various viewpoints, but Carnelia fails to provide that final punch which inhabits "I Dreamed a Dream" or even Paul Anka's "My Way." His two most noble efforts, "Just a Housewife" and "Diary of a Homecoming Queen" sounded grim and heavy-handed and bordered on sameness. I desperately waited for an exhilarating high spirited blast that would transcend both the music and lyric but it never arrived.

Silliman, a Broadway veteran with a strong belt voice carried most of the show. By no means a slick performer, she has a homespun quirkiness that worked especially well on two perky numbers; "Avocado," a ditty concerning one's similarity to that distinguished vegetable and "Old Movies," a jazzy spoof of famed motion picture duos. Silliman's forceful vibrato blended well with Carnelia's light tenor and she performed her various solos with industrious aplomb.

Given the paucity of theatrical composers today, we should be happy to have Craig Carnelia with us. Next time, a broader and more varied repetoire would make for a more enjoyable evening. *—John Wasser*

Music

Not So Long Ago and Far Away

A monthly consumer guide to new and unusual music.

by Madam X

Record hunting isn't a pasttime—for some it's a way of life. My happiest afternoons are spent at a used record store, going through every bin, one by one, preferably in alphabetical order. Needless to say, I have trouble dating. There aren't that many women willing to spend hours crunched over filthy piles of singles looking for Liliput's elusive "Eisige Wind." To save you the inconvenience of getting your fingernails dirty, or worse, spending hard cash on worthless vinyl, the following should allow you to spend your music dollars wisely.

Marc Almond/*Jacques*/(Some Bizarre, import)

Marc Almond never had to prove his gay credentials; he never pretended to be something he wasn't, and such honesty isn't that widespread. For most of the American public, Almond is Soft Cell's voice, and Soft Cell is "Tainted Love." Few know that Almond has had a busy solo career since the early 80s, and that he has made some of the most brilliant albums to ever grace this shameless industry. If you don't have a copy of *Torment and Toreros*, you're missing out on something.

Contributing to the re-birth of a certain cabaret sensibility during the 1980s (One of his most accomplished albums, *Mother Fist*, featured a tribute to Judy Garland, "Saint Judy."), he never forgot its camp spirit, but he also managed to give the genre a renewed dignity. After landing a British chart-topper with a cover of Gene Pitney's "Something Gotta Hold of My Heart" last year, Almond could have butchered a commercial follow-up. Instead, he chose to record a whole album of songs by Jacques Brel. These songs, translated in English from the original French, have always been a staple of his show, but he finally got around to putting all of them onto one album. The result is quite depressing, yet enthralling, Brel's desperate cynicism being given a new life by Almond, who plays the game to the hilt. Don't expect anything pop around here, but the album is rewarding once you get to listen to it carefully.

blackgirls/*Procedure*/(Mammoth)

blackgirls are Eugenia Lee, Hollis Brown and Dana Kletter, three white women from North Carolina. They do wear black clothes, though, and when they played in New York, Lee was wearing black lipstick and a black bow in her hair. You see, Lee is a very intense person: when she looks at you, her very pale blue eyes pierce easily through your jaded I-live-in-New-York-I've-seen-it-all attitude (speaking of which, I went to a Lydia Lunch reading recently, what a hoot, though maybe I shouldn't have worn my blue parka). In their spare time, she and Dana put out a fanzine titled *Eat My Shit*, remarkable for its anti-authoritarian, semi-anarchist attitude.

blackgirls produce their unique sound with only an acoustic guitar, a piano and a violin (adding a mandolin on "A Visit to the Behaviorist"). Produced by Joe Boyd (10,000 Maniacs, REM, Fairport Convention) this album is slick and crisp, without sounding overproduced. The songs can be as quiet as a lake's surface, or they can twist and raise their ugly heads, especially when Lee is handling the vocals. The opening track is typical of their stance. Dana starts singing softly (about love, arrggghhhh) until, after a brief pause, you hear Lee snarling, "Yeah, right," before adding her own version of the story to Dana's.

This band deserves your attention, because it's original, uncompromising and adventurous. And on stage they kick ass!

Opal/*Early Recordings*/(Rough Trade)

Once you've got your adrenaline level in the red, Opal is about the only thing likely to calm you down. Revolving around David Roback (ex-Rain Parade) and Kendra Smith (ex-Dream Syndicate), Opal made one album in 1987, *Happy Nightmare Baby* (SST), which I had mixed feelings about. Sure, Kendra has a beautiful voice, but it was buried behind guitars that were way too loud and needlessly aggressive. Fortunately, this present album collects tracks recorded between 1984 and 1987, some of them previously unreleased, and we get the songs and the voice without the heavy arrangements. This is everything the soft side of psychedelic should be, and if Syd Barrett (original Pink Floyd percussionist and rumored subject of the film *The Wall*) were still alive, he'd love it. Take the opening track, "Empty Box Blues." Smith's voice is floating sweetly over a sorta folky background, and you think that it can't get better than that, until it does: a piano comes along to counterpoint the vocals. Pure bliss, they repeat this feat 12 times (13 if you get the CD). This is the perfect soundtrack when you happen to be on the turnpike on a rainy night, with your sleepy significant other in the passenger seat. (This album should also be quite good on a Sunday morning,

with the *Times*' Arts and Entertainment section and a solid brunch, but I haven't tried that yet.)

ZEtrospective/*Hope Springs Eternal* and *Dancing in the Face of Adversity*/(ZE/Island)

This two-CD compilation is the most indispensable thing to have hit the stands in, oh, about ten years. Thanks to its nutty boss, Michael Zilkha, the now-defunct ZE record label once had one of the most diverse and exciting roster of artists of the time. Now all the fabulous artists to have graced this label are gathered on one, or actually two, silver slices. A blast from the past, yes indeed. Where else now could you get Lydia Lunch right next to Was (not Was)? All my faves from the late 70s/early 80s are there, in their splendid, delirious extravagance.

As far as moving your feet go, *Dancing in the Face of Adversity* rules supreme. Kid Creole and the Coconuts (whom I admit I saw at least seven times between 1982 and 1985, and not only because of the Coconuts) gives us "I'm a Wonderful Thing, Baby," which was alone enough to send me, in a fit of nostalgia, back to listening to the complete works of Mr. August Darnell. In the same Latin vein, Don Armando's Second Avenue Rhumba Band with their classic "Deputy of Love" (I'm melting, I'm melting) testify to the influence of the Darnell galaxy. Cristina's "Disco Clone" is there too, along with Material's "Busting Out" (Nona Hendryx circa 1982-3), James White's "Contort Yourself," Caroline Loeb's Euro-decadent trash "A Malibu" and Lizzy Mercier Descloux, the French Cutie on "Jim on the Move"!

The second disc, *Hope Springs Eternal*, has another batch of goodies, with the splendiferous Waitresses doing the best Christmas song *ever*, "Christmas Wrapping." And Christina again, this time in her pseudo-serious mood, for even when they were trying really hard, nobody on ZE could keep a straight face for long. Jeez, even Lydia Lunch was funny, sort of—her languorous lounge number, "Lady Scarface" sounds nothing like her later work (or even her earlier work for that matter), which you can compare because there's a Teenage Jesus track too.

If you buy only one thing this month, get this. Urgent, brilliant, fun, dancey, this is ZE.

And speaking of disco...

Let's start with Acid Horse and *No Name, No Slogan* (Wax Trax!). It's the same track appearing on both sides, with two different production teams. Alain "Ministry" Jourgensen and Revolting Cocks are on side A and they're unusually subdued, the vocals sort of sung, not shouted. Side B is produced by Cabaret Voltaire, and it's terrific. It sounds more "techno," as in early 80s, as in processed vocals, as in Kraftwerk. Clocking in at nine minutes, this goes on and on and on. Renegade Soundwave's *Biting my Nails* (Mute/Enigma) is a bit like Meat Beat Manifesto, only slower. This is the side of the British invasion you don't hear often, unless you're into this whole "hard acid" scene. Meandering fragments of melody, sampling and vocals sound as if they wondered what they were doing there. On the B side, "Cocaine Sex" has the most evil bass line since "Pump Up the Volume." Finally, Boxcar's *Insect* (Arista) is disco, disco, disco (Ten years later and it's still there. Oooooof, I knew I was right all along. I'll go and dust off my *Saturday Night Fever* album right now.) ▼



OPAL

Music

Smokin' and a' Cheatin'

k.d. lang. and the Reclines. Feb. 15. New Brunswick Cultural Center, New Brunswick, N.J.

by Victoria Starr

To dance is human...But to Polka is divine. —k.d. lang

Ms. k.d. lang is quite an anomaly. Dressed from head to toe in a purple zoot suit, gold blouse with matching socks and purple patent leather buckle shoes, she looks more like a big band leader than a Country/Western crooner. Hailing from "the rolling hills" of Alberta, Canada, this big-boned gal, along with her (indeed) big band, the Reclines, is the most likely Country/Western crossover act since the Everly Brothers. And k.d.'s got the biggest voice north of Nashville.

Surely you've heard of k.d. Often touted as the new Patsy Cline (a comparison that proves truer of the band's sound than hers), she is particularly known in our circle for an even more desperate reason: the unsubstantiated rumor that she is "one of the girls." A little bit country, a little bit blues, and a whole lotta swing, k.d. lang is refreshingly accessible, daring a bold new approach to one of North America's more traditional genres of music. Shining with self-confidence and oozing with charm, her vitality on stage captures even the non-fan of country/western music, as she shakes, rattles and rolls like a female Elvis.

Moreover, k.d. is a tease. On stage she loves that we love her, and coyly toys with the fantasies of whichever gender is wanting it. Immediately following her opening number, "Big Big Love," she provocatively declared, "this next song is for all the women in the audience...(pregnant pause)...who consider themselves...(pause as our pulses quicken)...big-boned gals." Later, she began to camp it up, holding up a cigarette and proclaiming, "I don't smoke, and no, I don't cheat. So why is it that these articles of temptation make such good country/western songs." "It's a living," shouted my girlfriend. "Yeah, it's a living," sighed k.d.

Yet while lang's charm is clearly what pushes her over the top (who else could have looked so naively earnest as she politely told Connie Chung to mind her own business on national television), there's a minor contradiction in her approach—a contradiction that will likely work itself out as she becomes more settled in her new-found fame. In concert she seems to encourage a casual, more intimate relationship with the audience, which the audience, in turn, reciprocates. But in this case, both singer and audience lost sight of the boundaries, and the more vocally responsive was the audience, the more annoyed she seemed to become. It may be that k.d. simply suffers a mild disdain towards her celebrity status. More likely she finds it hard playing both sides of the fence.



OUR KIND OF WOMAN
k.d. lang and company

In both her recordings and her live performances, k.d. lang makes it clear that she is thoroughly committed to her craft, bound and determined to be accepted as a formidable C/W artist. Her versatility as a vocalist is unmatched in such a young artist, whether she's performing the sultry blues number, "I'll Be Gone," or belting out the honky-tonk of "Heart Like Mine." Such virtuosity has garnered her much attention over the last few years, not the least of which was the invitation to work with the legendary Roy Orbison. To this day, Orbison's "Crying" is one of lang's strongest works.

But the country/western scene offers no easy entry to a young and uncompromising upstart like k.d. It's bad enough that she's a woman, worse still that she may not be the right *kind* of woman. She jokingly makes the point as she tells the story

See SMOKIN' on page 66

Art
Liner Notes

The Indomitable Spirit. International Center of Photography. 1130 5th Ave. 768-4680. Through April 7.

by Amy Cappellazzo



Rosalind Solomon. *Barbara Bruce, Medical Doctor (Attacked by a shark in 1963)*, South Africa, 1988.

The Indomitable Spirit" at International Center of Photography, Midtown, is dubious in composition but not in intention. This exhibit, organized by Photographers + Friends United Against AIDS, called upon leading figures in the photography community to contribute works which "affirmed the will to live...that celebrated human endurance and resiliency in the face of overwhelming obstacles." With such vague stipulations, the show was collectively destined to be what it is—scattered and unencompassing. The general continuity in medium was the only unifying factor of the work. Obviously each artist has a different idea of what "affirmation of the will to live" means, and how it is visually articulated.

The Starn Twins submitted multiple portrait images of Rembrandt and Andres Serrano contributed a cibachrome abstract of an ejaculation. With a show so varied in content, it is difficult for a curator to synthesize ideas. To display the works collectively under the pretense of work donated for auction to raise money for AIDS would have made more sense and would have allowed the viewer to gain clarity based on personal insights and interpretations. Instead, we receive a kind of handholding. The faux pas of this show was attempting to find a common thread of the artists' work and their visual relationship to the AIDS crisis. Perhaps the ultimate curatorial no-no is the explaining of what a work means to the audience. Beside each piece, in addition to the title, name of artist and medium is an explanation of what it means, either literally or metaphorically to life and AIDS. Some are distant stretches; others are merely synecdochic for art as it relates to life in general.

This is well illustrated by the cowboy photograph by Richard Prince, a photographer whose acclaim came from romantic images for 70s cigarette ads. Here we have this grainy, softly lit image of a cowboy and a horse crossing a stream; an image typically embellished to romanticize the American West. Its relationship to an affirmation of life seems as reasonable as anything else; after all, you could depict a will to live by showing an absence of life and still make a case for it. Our given script seems to think this relates to AIDS and to life in that "we are pioneers, we have conquered nature and we are in control." I suppose it is so if you think so. It seems one could have made a connection from this to the popularity of country-western decor in leather bars, or the desire of some people with AIDS to own a horse.

Certain works in "The Indomitable Spirit" are related in content and emotion. David Moffett and Barbara Kruger's verbally confrontational pieces are not unlike each other's, nor are Herb Ritts' and Robert Mapplethorpe's silver gelatin prints of beautiful bodies.

The explanations sometimes provide interesting information about the work. To know that Brian Weil became very interested and dedicated to helping infants with AIDS is a notable aside, but on the whole, is not crucial to appreciate or understand his work.

Overall, the quality of the works in the show is exceptionally high. Some of the finest chroniclers of society and culture of this era are represented under one roof and can be experienced at one time. This in and of itself is life-affirming and shows and endurance of humanity in the face of societal and political obstacles. And if "life is but the theater," we, as an audience of these times, certainly do not require direction of how to respond emotionally to a time of crisis and a need for hope. If you ignore the attempt to curate the concern of a community, you will capture hope in person. ▼

Books

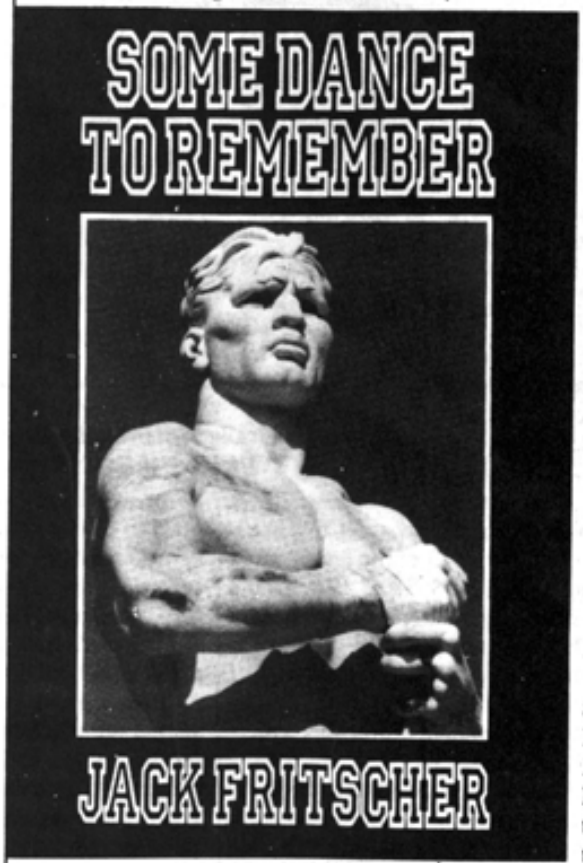
The Castro's "Gone with the Wind"

Some Dance to Remember by Jack Fritscher. Knights Press. $11.00. 562 pp.

by Christopher Davis

I have long had three inflexible rules for writing book reviews: (1) I will not review a book that I do not like, for not only does no one look sillier than when being bitchy in print, but the review might also be interpreted as sour grapes on my part for some arcane reason or another; (2) I will not write an unqualified rave, for fawning in print looks even sillier than being bitchy; and (3) I will not review books written by writers who have reviewed my books, for reasons that should be obvious. (I do admit to being once very tempted to break rules one and three simultaneously, but my motives were not pure and eventually reason won and the rules remained unbroken.) I am about to come very close to breaking rule two. I loved *Some Dance to Remember*, all 562 pages of it. When page proofs arrived I read through them in one day, unable to stop, then I reread them more slowly over the next week, and now I have read them again, and still my opinion has not changed: *Some Dance to Remember* is the best gay novel since *Dancer From the Dance*, which I doubt will ever be equalled—another writer might come along with the same skill, but the feeling of the 70s that pervades *Dancer* and makes it so exciting can never be recaptured.

At the heart of *Some Dance to Remember* is a love affair between Ryan, a Castro resident who has always idolized bodybuilders, and Kick (as in "that's not a dick, that's a kickstand"), who is the archetypal California Golden Man. Kick is even more than that: He's the blond super muscle hunk on the cover of bodybuilding magazines; he's fantasy sex incarnate. In Ryan, who worships him, he finds something he needs. I know, it sounds dreadful; however, the author uses great care to develop the characters, and the reader becomes very involved in their relationship.



One of the strengths of this novel, which helps sustain its length, is that the author draws the minor characters as carefully as the major ones. Ryan's family is extremely Catholic, and when they meet the teenage girl, who dropped out of her sophomore year in high school and soon thereafter marries Ryan's brother, Thom, their mother asks,

> *'You have such a lovely dark complexion. What nationality are you, dear?'*
>
> *'Protestant,' Sandy answered*

To say that this marriage was not successful would be exaggerated understatement, although, with three very offensive children, it was fertile.

So, there is a strong plot and interesting characters, but what gives this book its greatest strength is its setting in the Castro over 20 years, from the mid-60s to the mid-80s. Historical events are treated, for the most part, accurately but are seen through the characters, and real historical figures make brief appearances—for example, Divine, a "two-ton act person," Pat Califia, who, according to the author is truly a macho slut, Robert Mapplethorpe, in the beginning of his S&M period. The sense of living history is strong. Mr. Fritscher, as others have, attributes the start of the Castro to an article in the June 26, 1964, *Life* magazine about the emerging gay culture. "'An engraved invitation to every faggot in America wouldn't have caused more of a sensation. Reading *Life*'s expose in Iowa was like discovering a travel agent's dream brochure...' Not since Sutter's Mill...has any proclamation started such a stampede west."

See SOME DANCE on page 66

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SMOKIN' from page 62

of one of her early trips to Nashville, when she was approached in the train station by a man passing out pamphlets entitled "How to Become a C/W Superstar" (he wasn't sure whether to give her the pink pamphlet or the blue one, so she saved him the embarrassment by snatching up the pink one). As she rushed off to her hotel room, ready to be schooled, lesson one taught her what she had feared all along: "The higher the hair," read the pamphlet, "the closer to god." Not only is k.d.'s coiff of the short, wash and wear style, but to some she's a veritable cross-dresser.

So, against all odds, and in fact, because of them, an aura of irreverence seems to envelop k.d.'s work. While she takes both the C/W genre and her role in it very seriously, she is clearly not ready to stuff herself into a pair of spike heels and a Dolly Parton wig. Instead she walks the fine line, challenging people without threatening them. She may not be changing the pronouns in her songs (are we assuming too much?), but she could be the biggest gender-bender to grace middle-America's TV screens since Boy George.

The world may not yet know the real k.d. lang, but hopefully that will change in time. Even Connie Chung would like for k.d. to be "one of the girls," but as she allegedly explained to Chung after the cameras stopped rolling, at this point it would get her nowhere. Instead, she challenges the C/W industry as much as she thinks she can, believing that too much too soon will simply see the door slam shut.▼

SHE/HE from page 59

er, Isabelle herself fell victim to a natural anomaly: she died, at 27, in a flash flood in the desert.

This is raw material from which Wertenbaker fashions her piece. It can be compelling, but often loses its power in a confusion of form. It wants to be both an example of didactic theater—where the ideas come first and the story and characters trickle down—and anecdotal theater—where the ideas and themes emerge out of character and action.

Much of what one would like to know about Eberhardt remains mysterious. Why she chose the desert—that most romantic of locales in western patriarchal myth—as the setting for her drama of self-discovery, and the nature of her sexuality, are two of the larger, unanswered questions. If the play were not so centered on ideas and discussions—and more concerned with Eberhardt's story rather than what it "means"—these questions might not matter so much. After all, less need be revealed in a story than in an analysis, but once a play takes on the analytic mode, an audience feels it's entitled to know everything.

Wertenbaker even glosses over Eberhardt's own feelings and opinions, choosing to make Isabelle either inebriated or incoherent for long stretches, while the others around her discuss the issues her "case" represents: sexual and cultural chauvinism, political correctness (the lesbians at a Paris salon are somewhat aghast to hear that Isabelle doesn't sleep with women). Colette Kilroy has to work very hard to overcome the void at the center of this Isabelle, and it's not to her discredit that she doesn't always succeed. Indeed, the characters surrounding her are generally more palpable, more tangible—more human—than Isabelle. It may be that Wertenbaker became more interested in Isabelle as symbol than Isabelle as a specific person caught in a concrete dilemma. Often, Isabelle is merely an occasion for the dissection of ideas. Certainly, she is more dissected than fleshed out. Yet Wertenbaker can't quite let go of her central character's humanness, or the human desire to simply tell a story.

The production, directed by Melia Bensussen, tries to make the most of minimal means. The set, by Connie Singer, is draped in sheets; all the action occurs on this basically empty space. An empty stage requires sharper, more specific acting than a realistic set does. With their own imaginative work, actresses must fill in what isn't physically apparent to the audience. When an actress is playing multiple roles, the task is that much more difficult. Of the five women playing 17 parts, Ching Valdes/Aran and Alison Stair Neet are most consistently the actresses we want to watch before they say a word.

There are moments that work quite well. Isabelle dons her turban for the first time, and everything onstage changes. The world becomes alive with freedom and possibilities; the stage itself seems to get brighter and larger. It's shortly cut down to size, however, by reams of talk. This simply reminds us that simple theatrical images, charged with all sorts of *unspoken* meaning, are more memorable (and meaningful) than the intellectualization which explains and explains and explains.

However, a critic ought not bury the good of a production under a pile of his own words. *New Anatomies*, whatever its flaws, is one of those rare plays: it is actually about something. The struggle to live an authentic life is a subject that never loses its importance, its "relevance."▼

SOME DANCE from page 64

At first, life in the Castro was heaven on earth for a gay man. Beauty was everywhere, sex was plentiful, healthy and available in variety, and everyone from geeks to gods found satisfaction somewhere. But as more and more came, and as "attitude" became a noun that did not need a modifier, the Castro disintegrated and it is only now beginning to heal, although it will never be the same. As Mr. Fritscher writes, "Attitude assassinated characters, reputations, and motives with more venom than Dan White ever knew...The Attitude Game was great sport, and great hurt; it would take years, and, finally, political and medical terror, before the perverse-rainbow bandana flag of intra-gay separatism [became] the real Rainbow Flag of Gay and Lesbian unity pulling the fussing, feuding dissidents together in true community." AIDS enters this novel in the 80s, of course, for without it, the book would be an unbelievable fairy tale. But AIDS enters only historically; it is not of central importance.

I wrote at the beginning that this was going to be an almost unqualified rave. It would have been totally unqualified if Mr. Fritscher had not introduced what seems to me to be a rather nasty and elitist concept: homomasculinity—the super men, those with great, muscular bodies and strong minds who would never be caught in drag or own any pet that wasn't a snarling brute. Mr. Fritscher writes the

appropriate words that say that all kinds of gay men and lesbians are equal members of what I shall call "our community" for simplicity, but it is obvious that, at least in this novel, the author clearly thinks the "homomasculinists," the "manly homosexuals," are superior. My notes summarize my opinion about this point; I wrote "Bullshit! Fritscher takes himself too seriously here." *However*, and this is a big "however," the novel is large enough and complex enough so that the politics, right or wrong, do not interrupt it, and, in fact, give the reader something to think about.

Jacket blurbs are often irrelevant or silly, but there is one on this book that comes pretty close. "*Some Dance to Remember* is the *Gone With the Wind* of sexual liberation." I would say it is the *Gone With the Wind* of the Castro, but the point is almost the same. ▼

OSCAR from page 58

decadence, and Bette Midler's same-sex affair in *The Rose* seemed merely a drug-induced thing. On the other hand, the homosexuality in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple* was so delicately understated that Whoopi Goldberg and Margaret Avery's Oscar nominations may well have been for the aplomb with which they *didn't* make love.

The first major Oscar breakthrough for vaguely positive gay roles was *Sunday, Bloody Sunday* (1971). Peter Finch's character was a mess, but he was largely sympathetic. So was the title character in *Julia*, for which Vanessa Redgrave won a Best Supporting Actress award. Julia was apparently a lesbian, but of course her sexuality was suppressed in the movie. The same goes for Redgrave's nominated role in *The Bostonians* and for the asexual Emma Goldman part that won Maureen Stapleton an Oscar for *Reds*.

Gay people who were neither closeted nor incredibly anguished first began to appear as Oscar contenders in the 80s, both in dramas, like *Silkwood*, and in comedies, like the cliché-ridden but likable *Victor/Victoria*. A campy, yet endearing, role as an aging queen in the latter film earned Robert Preston his only Oscar nomination. Tom Courtenay's performance in *The Dresser* (1983) was also sympathetic, but still fey and frantic enough to earn a nomination, and it set the stage for Hurt's victory two years later.

It's not surprising that the only openly gay character to win an actor an Oscar was a drag queen. Cross-dressing has earned nominations for almost as many actors as has frank homosexuality. Jack Lemmon got a mention for *Some Like It Hot*, Dustin Hoffman for *Tootsie*, Julie Andrews for *Victor/Victoria* and Jeff Bridges for *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*—a movie popular with those who like to dig out gay subtexts in supposedly heterosexual "buddy" pictures.

Roles with drag bits have actually *won* Oscars for three actors: Joel Grey in *Cabaret*; Richard Dreyfuss, who camped it up as Queen Richard III in *The Goodbye Girl*; and Linda Hunt, who did "deep drag" for *The Year of Living Dangerously*—she played a man, start to finish. Brilliantly cast and powerfully played, gender-switched performances like Hunt's and John Lithgow's Oscar-nominated transsexual part in *The World According to Garp* are surefire attention-getters with the smoking-jacket voters of the Academy. But Hollywood only rarely dares such roles.

In fact, it's more likely for the Academy to honor the performer who plays a straight character traumatized by or involved with a homosexual than it is to recognize someone for a gay role. Just think of all those actresses nominated for playing women with gay male lovers in screen versions of Tennessee Williams plays: Geraldine Page, Elizabeth Taylor, Geraldine Page. And then there were Joanne Woodward in *Rachel, Rachel*, Glenda Jackson in *Sunday, Bloody Sunday* and Oscar-winners Maggie Smith, who suffered a gay husband in *California Suite*, and Jessica Lange, who fended off what she thought were lesbian advances in *Tootsie*.

My favorite example in this category is Oscar winner Liza Minnelli for *Cabaret*, whose character sleeps with a fictionalized Christopher Isherwood. As her sometimes lover, Michael York played one of the first nonflaming, largely self-accepting gay men in Hollywood cinema, yet his performance went unmentioned by the Academy, which gave Oscars to both Minnelli and Joel Grey. Perhaps it seemed too easy to play a rather normal fellow who was gay—or maybe York's strong portrayal of relative normality was distasteful or threatening to the average Academy voter.

Publicly closeted gays may *win* Academy Awards—like last year—but for the same reason actors stay closeted, the number of openly gay roles in acceptable movies remains small. (I can't think of a single significant gay character in a mainstream film released in 1989.) The kind of movies that win Oscar nominations these days are simply not the kind of movies that feature gay characters. Hollywood can try now to handle racism, teenage suicide and the Vietnam War, but it has trouble with homosexuality. But I mustn't get started on *that* subject again. ▼

states have adopted gay rights laws, the relevant legislative forum for judging *federal* policies is Congress, which has never enacted affirmative protection for gays, and frequently passes laws against gays (such as overruling the District of Columbia's sodomy law repeal about ten years ago).

And aside from the questionable accuracy of the court's assertion that homosexuality is not innate or immutable, Gayer told *OutWeek* that the court's legal argument "misused the *Bowers vs. Hardwick* decision, because it assumes that all gay people engage in sodomy as it is defined in that decision."

This decision could lead to a series of other negative decisions in cases pending on the West Coast, including the *Pruitt* case, a challenge to the Navy's antigay policies, and the *Dubbs* case, which takes on the homophobia of the CIA. Ironically, internal Defense Department studies leaked to members of Congress last fall indicated that experts hired by the department have concluded that the present policies lack substantial justification. ▼

GOING OUT

AN EVENTS CALENDAR

prepared by Rick X
with additional information from
The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of
New York

For more information or referrals, to rap, or to volunteer, call the GLSB daily, noon to midnight, 212-777-1800

Send calendar items to:
Rick X, Going Out
Box 790
New York, NY 10108

Items must be received by Monday to be included in the following week's issue.

ONGOING

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY **Solicits Information on June Events** to place on the 1990 Pride Month Poster Calendar, which will be widely distributed throughout NYC; deadline is **March 15**, for any gay/lesbian events taking place in June; Lee Hudson or Jan Carl Park, 566-7385

TOWER PRESS ***Pride Guide 90*** **Deadlines are March 23** for organization listings, and **April 20** for calendar of June events listings; 966-7722 (these basic listings are provided free)

INT'L CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY MIDTOWN ***The Indomitable Spirit***, works by 100 artists created in response to the AIDS crisis; 1133 6th Ave (at 43 St); TU-SUN, 11-6, except THU till 8; 768-4680 (thru APR 7)

SIMON LOWINSKY GALLERY **David Hockney** a sampling of paintings and photo collages, and **Mariette Pathy Allen** dye-transfer portraits of cross-dressers; 584 B'way, 3rd Floor; TU-SA, 11-6; 226-5440 (thru FEB 28)

THEATRE WORKS EMERGING/EXPERIMENTAL DIRECTIONS & JUSTIN ROSS present ***Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens (an AIDS Anthology)***, written and directed by Bill Russell, music by Janet Hood, with a cast of 33 men and women; at RAPP Arts Center, 220 E 4 St (btwn Aves A/B); $15 ($3 goes to Equity Fights AIDS); tix 529-6160 (thru March 4; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 & 10 pm, SUN at 3 & 7 pm)

VILLAGE THEATRE COMPANY presents the first New York revival of **Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart***, directed by Henry Fonte; at The Village Theatre, 133 W 22 St; 8 pm; tix 627-8411, press 721-6639 (thru March 4; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 & 10 pm, SUN at 7 pm)

SAL PIRO presents ***Busting Out (Lezzyvision Comes of Age)***, a gay women's musical comedy revue for everyone, written by Maz Troppe, directed by C.C. Banks; at Trocadero, 368 Bleecker (at Charles); FRI and SAT, 8 & 10:30 pm; SUN 4 & 7 pm; $12 + one drink min.; reservations 869-3530 (thru March 18)

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 26

BODY POSITIVE **Discussion Workshop: *How Do I Tell My Family?***, on sharing one's HIV status with family and loved ones; gain skills and strategies and evaluate alternatives; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; $10; 691-5689

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS **Annual Meeting**, at the Center, 208 W 13 St, 7:30 pm (info: BAHR, Box 1899, NYC 10163)

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 27

Mardi Gras
(straight men may act gay today)

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **Workshop: Deciding to Take the HIV Antibody Test**; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 6-10 pm; free; register 807-6655, TDD 645-7470

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **HIV Health Seminar: Medical Treatments**; 129 W 20 St, 3rd Floor; 7 pm; free; 807-6655, TDD 645-7470 (this and every 4th TUES)

THE ANSWER IS LOVING **Women in Discovery: Married Women Loving Women**, a counseling group begins Tuesday sessions tonight, in Brooklyn; 8-10 pm; $15 per session; 718/998-2305

TUNNEL BAR **Mardi Gras Party**, with "Bloody Marys, Planter's Punch, Tequila Sunrises, prize for costumes, free buffet, videos and music"; 116 First Ave (at 7 St); 10 pm - 4 am; 777-9232

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 28

Ash Wednesday

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH/NY **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**, introducing an original work for the MCC/NY Choir by Stephen Mayer, directed by David Heid; at the Center, in the MCC office, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; 242-1212

PATH: POSITIVE APPROACHES TOWARD HEALING **Seminar: *The Different Levels of Healing***, led by Peter Hendrickson, Ph.D., for anyone concerned about HIV infection; Integral Yoga Institute, 227 W 13 St; 7:30-9 pm; $5; 929-0586

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER/NY **Dance Outing to Lar Lubovitch Dance Company**, at City Center, 131 W 55 St; 8 pm; 222-9794

CARROT PRODUCTIONS begins previews of ***Spare Parts***, about two gay women who want to have a baby, but who need "a spare part"; at Circle In The Square Downtown, 159 Bleecker St; 645-7744 (opening slated for March 12)

CENTER STAGE sees ***City of Angels***; 8 pm; $70; 620-7310

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play** series of readings; tonight, Melinda Goodman and James Purdy, poetry and fiction; 353 B'way (3 blocks below Canal); 8 pm; $6; 431-9545 (gay/lesbian/AIDS organizations will have tables in the lobby)

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS **Meeting: *Water Sports and Raunch***, with "a wet and wild talk on piss, scat and other bodily secretions"; at the Center, 3rd Floor, 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm (doors open at 8); $5; 727-9878

EAGLE BAR **Movie Night: *Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade***, 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

CELLBLOCK 28 **Hot Ash Party**, for cigar-smokers and their admirers; 28 Ninth Ave (btwn 13/14 Sts); 8 pm - 3 am; $10; 733-3144

THURSDAY
MARCH 1

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES **Changing the Subject**, an international exhibition of work by Black, Asian and Latin women from Australia, Britain, Canada and the US; tonight **at 7 pm:** Tracey Moffet's *Nice Colored Girls*, Loleen Jayamanne's *A Song of Ceylon*; **at 9 pm:** Mona Hatoum's *Measures of Distance*, Pratibha Parmar's *Sari Red* and *Flesh and Paper*, P. Diaz and M. McIntosh's *The Hidden Wisdom*, Ngozi Onwurah's *Coffee Colored Children*; at Anthology Film Archives, 32-34 2nd Ave (at 2nd St); $5; 477-2714, press 925-0606 (9 pm show repeats MAR 9, at 7 pm)

GAY WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE presents **Merlin Stone**, author of *When God Was a Woman* and *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood*; presenting **Sacred Symbols of the Goddess**, a slide presentation of the works of contemporary women artists whose aesthetic sensibilities have been excited by Goddess Symbols, Rituals and Sacred Connections with the Earth; at the Universalist Church, Central Park West at 76 St; 8 pm; $5 (for women only, meets every first Thursday)

NEW YORK CITY GAY MEN'S CHORUS ***Rhapsody***, with special guest **Marilyn Horne**, and a full symphony orchestra performing Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*, several Rossini arias, *Only in the Dream* by John David Earnest, and a new work by John Corigliano; a benefit for the Chorus' AIDS Outreach Fund; at Carnegie Hall, 57 St & 7th Ave; 8 pm; $15-$100; info 691-7590, tix 247-7800

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play** series of readings; tonight, Mark Ameen presents *Monologues of an Anonymogamist, or, Seven Pillars of Wicca-Dick*, and Andrew Mellen performs *My Life as Kim*

Novak, or, There's Only Two Things I Don't Like About You; 353 B'way (3 blocks below Canal); 8 pm; $6; 431-9545 (gay/ lesbian/ AIDS organizations will have info tables in the lobby)

FRIDAY MARCH 2

GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD/NY **Volunteer Interviews**, for those who wish to work at least two 3-hour shifts per month; 6:30 pm; 777-1800 (those chosen will be required to attend a training tomorrow afternoon, March 3)

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES **Changing the Subject**, an international exhibition of work by Black, Asian and Latin women from Australia, Britain, Canada and the US; tonight **at 7 pm:** Trinh T. Minh-ha's *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*; **at 9 pm:** Zeinabu Davis' *Cycles*, Hiroko Yamazaki's *Juxta*, Pam Tom's *Two Lies*, Julie Dash's *Illusions*; at Anthology Film Archives, 32-34 2nd Ave (at 2nd St); $5; 477-2714; press 925-0606 (9 pm show repeats MAR 8 at 9 pm)

THE ANSWER IS LOVING **Women Talking Women's Talk: Relatively Speaking:** "We are family. Traditional. Cultural. What happened to choice?"; led by Ruth Berman and Connie Kurtz; Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn; 7:45-10 pm; $8; 718/998-2305

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER/NY **Educational Forum/Safer Sex Workshop:** ***Keep It Up!***, at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:45 pm; 222-9794, 245-6366

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play** series of readings directed/curated by Andrew Mellen; tonight, David B. Feinberg's *Snap Out of It*, Larry Kramer's *Selected Essays*, John Weir's *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket*; 353 B'way (3 blocks below Canal); 8 pm; $6; 431-9545 (gay/ lesbian/ AIDS organizations will have info tables in the lobby; the event repeats MAR 3 and MAR 4)

MORE LISTINGS ON NEXT PAGE

Tuning In: A TV/Radio Guide for *OutWeek* Readers

(Editor's Note: We solicit entries from radio and TV, including talk shows, news programs, movies, extravaganzas, cable series and specials, and any other electronic media events that might interest our subscribers. Information must be received by Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send items to Rick X, Tuning In, Box 790, NY, NY 10108.)

CCTV (Rick X, Box 790, NYC 10108)
GBS (Gay Broadcasting System, Butch Peaston, 178 7th Ave, Ste. A-3, NYC 10011; 243-1570)
GCN (Gay Cable Network, Lou Maletta, 32 Union Square East, Suite 1217; 477-4220)
GMHC (Gay Men's Health Crisis, Jean Carlomusto, 129 W 20 St, NYC 10011; 807-7517)
RB PROD (Robin Byrd Productions, Box 305, NYC 10021; 988-2973)
WBAI-FM (279-0707)
WNET-TV (356 W 58 St, NYC 10019; 560-3000)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

GCN *Be My Guest*, Sybil Bruncheon hosts a panel game show
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23; 10:00-10:30 pm

Tomorrow's TV Tonight: entertainment
Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel D/17; 11:30 pm - 12:30 am

CCTV *The Closet Case Show*: tonight, Chip Duckett's masseurs at his Quick! opening; Dean Johnson's *Deli Boy* with Perry and Steven, and Danny as Cupid at Rock & Roll Fag Bar at the Pyramid
Manhattan Cable, Channel C/16, midnight - 12:30 am

Gay TV: gay male porno clips
Paragon Cable, Channel J/23; 1-1:30 am (MON/TUE)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

GBS *Out in the 90's*: live news coverage, discussion and interviews
Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel C/16, 11 pm to midnight

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

RB PROD *The Robin Byrd Show*: male and female strippers
Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel J/23, midnight - 1 am

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

WNET-TV The Musicals: *Shall We Dance*, with Fred and Ginger and the music of Gershwin
Channel 13, 9-11 pm (also SAT, 2/3, 2 pm)

GMHC *Living With AIDS*: health and politics
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 9:30-10:00 pm
Paragon Cable, Channel J/23, 11:30 pm - midnight

GCN *Pride & Progress*: news, health, sports
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 10:30-11:00 pm
GCN *The Right Stuff*: media, entertainment, advice
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 11:00-11:30 pm

RB PROD *Men For Men*: Robin Byrd presents gay male porno stars
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 11:30 pm - midnight

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

The Gay Dating Game Show
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23; 7:30-8:00 pm

Gay TV: male porno clips
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 11-11:30 pm

RB PROD *Robin Byrd Show*: male and female strippers
Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel J/23; 1-2 am (FRI/SAT)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

WNET-TV The Musicals: *Shall We Dance*, with Fred and Ginger and the music of Gershwin
Channel 13, 9-11 pm

RB PROD *The Early Byrd*: Robin Byrd presents male/female strippers
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23; 11-midnight

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

WBAI-FM *The Gay Show* (Gay Men's Radio Collective): discussion
99.5 FM, 7:30-8:30 pm (every other Sunday, alternating with *Outlooks*)

GCN *Men & Films*: male erotica
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 11:30 pm - midnight

MONDAY, MARCH 5

GCN *Be My Guest*: Sybil Bruncheon's game show and entertainment
Manhattan Cable, Channel J/23, 10:00-10:30 pm

CCTV *The Closet Case Show*: tonight, go-go boys at Marc Berkley's *Sinful Sundays* at Hot Rod; also, the continuing saga of Frankie and Jake covered in marshmallow fluff at Mars
Manhattan Cable, Channel C/16, midnight - 12:30 am

WNET-TV Dance in America: *Bob Fosse: Steam Heat*, with selections from his works, interviews with Fosse and Gwen Verdon
Channel 13, 11:30 pm - 12:30 am
WNET-TV *Going Home: Alvin Ailey Remembered*, taped at the December memorial at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
Channel 13, 12:30-1:30 am (follows *Bob Fosse*)

BODY POSITIVE **Friday Night Socials**, for HIV Positives and friends; every 1st & 3rd Friday; Rutger's Church, 236 W 73 St (off Bway); 9 pm - midnight; free; info 721-1346 (Note: the next social, FEB 16, will be a special Valentine's Day Dance)

COLUMBIA LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, GAY COALITION **First Friday Dance**, in Earl Hall, Columbia U., 116 St & Bway (#1/#9 train); 10 pm - 2 am; photo ID to drink; 854-3574, 854-1488

SATURDAY MARCH 3

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **Sex, Dating and Intimacy Workshop**, where "gay and bisexual men will explore the many ways that men are loving men in the age of AIDS"; 10 am - 6 pm; free; registration required, 807-6655, TDD 645-7470

SAGE **Brunch at Coldwaters**, with fish, chicken, burger, omelette, or bacon & eggs entree, fries, salad or slaw, and libations; 988 2nd Ave (btwn 52/53 Sts); noon or 2 pm seating; $9.50; rsvp 741-2247 (check for & to SAGE, 208 W 13 St, NYC 10011)

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play**, 8 pm (see MAR 2)

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK and Their Imperial Majesties EMPRESS CHENE LA ROCHELLE & EMPEROR BARRY DAVIDSON cordially request the honor of your presence at **Night of a Thousand Gowns**, featuring the coronation of Empress Camille Beauchamps (The Forbidden Empress IV of New York) and Emperor Shelley (The First Lady Emperor of New York); with Marilyn Sokol, Lypsinka, Sybil Bruncheon, Princess Chucky, Razor Sharp, Gay Men's Chorus members, many others; in the Empire State Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel, East 42 Street (btwn Park/Lex); cocktails at 9 pm, ball begins at 11 pm; $100/person, $1000/table of ten; TicketMaster 307-7171, info 233-0059

WOMEN AND FRIENDS **Dance at the Center**, this and every first Saturday through May; 208 W 13 St; 9 pm - 1 am; $8/$6 members, seniors and students; 620-7310

YOUNG MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER **30-And-Under Caucus 3rd Anniversary Dance**, 135 W 14 St, 9 pm - 2 am, info 718/591-5493

SPECTRUM presents **2001 Odyssey**, a seventies party featuring **The Tramps** singing *Disco Inferno*, other surprises; 802 64th Street, Brooklyn (N Train to 8th Ave stop, Bay Ridge); 718/238-8213

SUNDAY MARCH 4

GIRTH AND MIRTH **Sunday Brunch at La Cascada**, featuring eggs, omelets, salads, or burgers, with two drinks; 9th Ave btwn 17/18 Sts; noon; $6-$8; rsvp with Ed, 914/357-0563

JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE presents **"Alice James Afternoon"** with **Sabra Loomis, Jean Valentine & Nora Mitchell**; 681 Washington St (at Charles St); 3 pm; free, but limited seating; 727-7330

VILLAGE THEATRE COMPANY presents the final performance of the New York revival of **Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart***, see ONGOING

LIZ TRACEY and SYDNEY POKORNY present ***Girl Sundays* Tea Dances for Women** at Mars, this and *every first Sunday* of the month; DJ Karin Ward, go-go girls, 6 pm show with **Felicia March** (Apollo Amateur Night winner); 13 St and the West Side Highway; 5-9 pm (participants may stay on for *Mars Needs Men*); $7; info 228-1240, Mars 691-6262

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play**, 8 pm (see MAR 2)

KOOL KOMRADS **Sinful Sundays** presents **Nikki Nicole, Miss Boy Bar 1990**, with $2 draft, $3.50 drinks; free buffet from 10 pm to midnight, go-go boys, drive-in porn theater (make out in classic cars); 270 11th Ave (at 28 St); doors open 10 pm; 244-1950

MONDAY MARCH 5

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play** series of readings; tonight, Joan Larkin and Honor Moore, poetry; 353 B'way (3 blocks below Canal); 8 pm; $8; 431-9545 (gay/ lesbian/ AIDS organizations will have info tables in the lobby)

TUESDAY MARCH 6

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS **HIV Health Seminar: Benefits Information**; 129 W 20 St, 3rd Floor; 7 pm; free; 807-6655, TDD 645-7470 (this and every 1st TUES)

LAVENDER HEIGHTS **Lecture Series: Lee Hudson**, Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community; at Cornerstone Center, 178 Bennett Ave (one block west of B'way, take A Train to 190 St); 8 pm; $7; John Mugge 603-4665 (days), 304-2471 (eves) (Editor: this series promises Derek Hodel on 3/22, Virginia Apuzzo on 4/3, Richard Plant on 4/24, Vito Russo on 5/17)

MEDICINE SHOW **Word/Play** series of readings; tonight, Marcel Christian, Kenyon Gordon, Paula Martinac and Lisa Vice, poetry and fiction; 353 B'way (3 blocks below Canal); 8 pm; $8; 431-9545 (gay/lesbian/AIDS organizations will have info tables in the lobby)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 7

PATH: POSITIVE APPROACHES TOWARD HEALING **Seminar: *Embracing Ourselves***, led by Peter Hendrickson, Ph.D., for anyone concerned about HIV infection; Integral Yoga Institute, 227 W 13 St; 7:30-9 pm; $5; 929-0586

EAGLE BAR **Movie Night: *Eddie and the Cruisers II: Eddie Lives!***; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY MARCH 8

International Women's Day

NY COUNTY LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION CMTE. ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS **Forum: *Women and AIDS: A Legal and Ethical Crisis***; with Stephen Joseph, former NYC Health Commissioner; Ravinia Hayes Cozier, Bureau of AIDS Educ., NYC Dept. of Health; Nancy Dubler, Law & Ethics Program, Dept. of Social Medicine, Montefiore Hospital; Moderated by Susan Jacobs, Legal Services Project for Women with AIDS; 14 Vesey St, 2nd Floor (btwn Church/B'way); 5:45 pm; info 267-6646

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE **Metro Area Information Meeting**, for the Atlanta meeting APR 24-28; at the Center, 208 W 13 St (1st floor, ASL interpreted); 6-8 pm; info 718/520-0964

LESBIANS UNITED and THE CENTER **Women's Night at the Center**, a "lesbians only" orientation to learn about the metro-area lesbian community, with speakers and printed matter; 208 W 13 St; 7 pm; $3 donation; 620-7310

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES **Changing the Subject**, an international exhibition of work by Black, Asian and Latin women from Australia, Britain, Canada and the US; tonight **at 7 pm:** Midi Onodera's *The Displace View*, Marilu Mallet's *Unfinished Diary*; **at 9 pm:** Zeinabu Davis' *Cycles*, Hiroko Yamazaki's *Juxta*, Pam Tom's *Two Lies*, Julie Dash's *Illusions*; at Anthology Film Archives, 32-34 2nd Ave (at 2nd St); $5; 477-2714, press 925-0606

NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH ***Queer Minds*: A series** of lectures informed by the lesbian, gay and bisexual experience, **"Communities in Crisis: ACT UP's response to the AIDS Crisis**, with Robert Getso, Columbia graduate student in sociology; 65 Fifth Ave, Room 308; 8 pm; 741-5600

DESIGN INDUSTRY FOUNDATION FOR AIDS (DIFFA) presents ***Heart Strings***, a two-act musical benefit to raise money for, and awareness about, HIV and AIDS; at the Beacon Theatre, B'way at 74 St; 7:30 pm; $50-$75; with pre-show cocktail party, $150; with party & post-performance dinner, $300; DIFFA 727-3100 (Editor's note: this is the NYC stop along a 30-city tour)

THURSDAY MARCH 8

MARC BERKLEY'S KOOL KOMRADS opens **Professional Happy Hour**, at Twenty/Twenty, with 2-4-1 drinks, free buffet, dancing; this and every Friday; 20 W 20 St; 4-8 pm; $5

OPEN CIRCLE **gathers on the Full Moon to *Celebrate the God/dess***, at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7-7:30 sharp; $1 (Box 4538, Sunnyside, NY 11104-4538)

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES **Changing the Subject**, an international exhibition of work by Black, Asian and Latin women from Australia, Britain, Canada and the US; tonight **at 7 pm:** Mona Hatoum's *Measures of Distance*, Pratibha Parmar's *Sari Red* and *Flesh and Paper*, P. Diaz and M. McIntosh's *The Hidden Wisdom*, Ngozi Onwurah's *Coffee Colored Children*; at Anthology Film Archives, 32-34 2nd Ave (at 2nd St); $5; 477-2714, press 925-0606

DANCING OUT

Monday
Private Eyes (Marc Berkley's *Kool Komrads*; male strippers) 12 W 21 St, club 206-7772

Tuesday
Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves) 245-8925
***Love Machine** at Underground, 860 Bway, near 17th St; 254-4005
***Quick** (Chip Duckett's 1st Tuesday of the month, AIDS benefit) 6 Hubert St; 925-2442

Wednesday
Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves) 245-8925
Private Eyes (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's *Club Bad*) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves, 206-7772
***Pyramid** (Dean Johnson's *Rock & Roll Fag Bar*) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6th/7th Streets, 420-1590
Silver Lining (2-4-1 drinks, also open Tues-Sun) 175 Cherry La., Floral Pk, LI, 516/354-9641
Stutz (2-4-1 drinks, also open daily) 202 Westchester Ave, White Plains, 914/761-3100
Twenty/Twenty (Marc Berkley's *Kool Komrads*, gay men after 10 pm) 20 W 20 St, club 727-8841

Thursday
***Boybar** (has a new wave drag show) 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd/3rd Aves, 674-7959
***Copacabana** (last Thu. of the month has Susanne Bartsch party) 10 E 60 St, at Fifth Ave, 755-6010
Excalibur ($1 drinks, also open Tues-Sun) corner 10th/Jefferson behind football stadium, Hoboken, NJ, 201-795-1161
Grand Central (2-4-1 drinks, also open Wed-Sun) 210 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, LI, 516/536-4800
***Quick!** (Chip Duckett Thursdays started Feb. 15) 6 Hubert St, 925-2442

Friday
***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl., btwn 2nd/3rd Aves, 674-7959
***Carmelita's** (Chip Duckett's *Boy+Boy*) 150 E 14 St, club 673-9015
Columbia Dances (1st Friday of every month) 116th St & Bway, 854-3574 days
Private Eyes (preppies and young professionals) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves, 206-7772
Twenty/Twenty (Marc Berkley's *Professional Happy Hour* starts MAR 9) 20 W 20 St, 4-8 pm; club 727-8841

Saturday
Barefoot Boogie (smoke & alcohol free) 434 6th Ave (btwn 9/10 Sts); 832-6759
***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd/3rd Aves, 674-7959
The Center Dances (2nd and 4th Saturdays) 208 W 13 St, btwn 7th/8th Aves, 620-7310
Girth and Mirth Club at the Center (heavy men & their admirers, 3rd Saturdays) 208 W 13 St, 620-7310
Pep Boys at Columbia (3rd Saturdays, through June 16) 116 & B'way, 10 pm - 3 am; info 629-1989
Private Eyes (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's *Club Bad*) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th/6th Aves; 206-7772
Red Zone (mixed gay/straight) 440 W 54 St, btwn 10/11 Aves; 582-2222
Roxy (mixed gay/straight) 515 W 18 St (btwn 10/11 Aves); 645-5156
Saint At Large (Saturdays discontinued; March 17 *Black Party* will be *the* last party at 105 2nd Ave) 674-8541
Sound Factory (Acid House, no alcohol, doors open midnight) 530 W 27 St (btwn 10th/11th Aves), 643-0728

Sunday
Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925
***Mars** (Chip Duckett's *Mars Needs Men* night) Westside Highway and 13th St, 691-6262
***Pyramid** (Hapi Phace and Drag + Variety Show) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6/7 Streets, 420-1590
Hot Rod (Marc Berkley's *Sinful Sundays*; Father Ritter's friend, Kevin Kite, on the door) 270 11th Ave (btwn 27/28 Sts), club 244-1963
Twenty/Twenty (T-Dance, 4 pm - 2 am) 20 W 20 St (5/6 Aves), 727-8841

Every Night (or almost)
Monster (West Village) 80 Grove St at Sheridan Sq., 924-3557
Spectrum (closed MON & TUE, WED free, THU free & 2-4-1 drinks, FRI m/f strippers, SAT guest star show, SUN live show & free 9-10 pm) 802 64th St @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, Bklyn, 718/238-8213

DANCING OUT for Women

NOTE: Party events are subject to change. Always call first to confirm.

Tuesday
Hatfield's 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, 718/261-8484

Wednesday
Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516
Excalibur (*Ladies Night*, $1 drinks) corner 10th/Jefferson behind football stadium, Hoboken, NJ, 201-795-1161
Twenty/Twenty (*Shescape* After Work, 5-10 pm) 20 W 20 St (btwn 5th/6th Aves), info 645-6479, club 727-8841

Thursday
Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516

Friday
Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516
***Carmelita's** (Chip Duckett's *Girl+Girl*) 150 E 14 St, club 673-9015
Cheeks 2000 Long Beach Road, Island Park, LI, 516/431-5700
Roxy (*Shescape* party) 515 W 18 St, btwn 10th/11th Aves; info 645-6479, club 645-5156
Visions 56-01 Queens Blvd, Woodside, info 718/846-7131 , club 718/899-9031

Saturday
Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516
The Center (*Women & Friends* 1st Saturdays, Feb. thru May) 208 W 13 St, 620-7310
Silver Lining 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Park, LI, 516/354-9641
Starz 836 Grand Boulevard, Deer Park, LI, 516/242-3857
Twenty/Twenty (*Shescape* party) 20 West 20 Street (btwn 5th/6th Aves), info 645-6479, club 727-8841

Sunday
Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516/486-9516
Cave Canem (*Sandwich Sister Sundays*) 24 1st Ave at 1st St, 529-9665
Handle Bar (Jenny & Nancy's *Girl Bar*) 232 E 9 St (2/3 Aves), 6 pm - midnight
Heartbreak (Nasty Girl Prods. *Party for Women*) 179 Varick St (7th Ave), below Houston, 5-11 pm, info 353-0227, club 691-2388
Hot Rod (*Our Parties/Ourselves*, Tea Dance 2nd Sundays) 270 11th Ave (btwn 27/28 Sts), 5-10 pm; info 245-1786, club 244-1963
Mars (*Girl Sunday*, Tea Dance 1st Sundays) Westside Highway and 13th St, 5-9 pm; 691-6262

Every Night (or almost)
Cubby Hole 438 Hudson St @ Morton St, 243-9079
Duchess II Sheridan Sq. & 7th Ave South, 242-1408
Spectrum (closed Mon & Tues; good gay/lesbian mix, see *Every Night*, above, for details) 802 64th St, Bklyn., 718/238-8213

All phone numbers are area code 212, unless otherwise noted.

*** = TVs welcome.**

Send corrections/additions to:
Rick X, P.O. Box 790, New York, NY 10108

OUTWEEK BAR GUIDE

WEST SIDE

Bike Stop West, 230 W. 75th St., 874-9014, Neighborhood bar, occasional entertainment.

Candle Bar, 309 Amsterdam Ave., 874-9155 , Friendly leather/western bar.

Cat's, 730 8th Ave., 221-7559, Older men, younger guys

Don't Tell Mama, 343 W. 46th St., 757-0788, Sing-along piano bar and cabaret.

Jason's, 23 CLOSED

Sally's Hideaway, 264 W. 43 St., 221-9152

Town & Country, 9th Ave at 46th St., 307-1503

Trix, 246 W. 48 St. (bet. Bdwy & 8th Ave), 664-8331, Cash and carry.

The Works, 428 Columbus Ave (at 81st), 799-7365, Cruisy west side crowd.

EAST SIDE

Brandy's Piano Bar, 235 E. 84th St., 650-1944, Sing-along piano bar.

G.H. Club, 353 E. 53rd St., 223-9752, Piano bar, mature crowd.

Johnny's Pub, 123 E. 47th St., 355-8714, Neighborhood restaurant and bar.

Regent East, 204 E. 58th St., 355-9465

Rounds, 303 E. 53rd St., 593-0807, Friendly guys, checkbook romance.

South Dakota, 405 3rd Ave., 684-8376

Star Sapphire, 400 E. 59th St., 688-4710

EAST VILLAGE

The Bar, 68 2nd Ave. (at 4th St.), 674-9714, East Villagers and ACT UPers.

Boy Bar, 15 St. Mark's Pl., 674-7959, Dancing / Drag shows.

The Pyramid, 101 Avenue A, 420-1590, Dancing / Drag shows.

Tunnel Bar, 116 1st Ave (7th St.), 777-9232 W. Village crowd in the E. Village.

WEST VILLAGE

The Annex (to Cellblock 28), 673 Hudson St. (bet. 13th & 14th), 627-1140, J/O Club.

Badlands, Christopher & West St. , 741-9236, Cruisy waterfront bar.

Boots & Saddle, 76 Christopher St., 929-9684, Funky dive and juke joint.

Cellblock 28, 28 9th Ave, 733-3144, J/O club.

The Cubbyhole, 438 Hudson (Morton St), 243-9079, Neighborhood bar for gay women & men.

D.T.'s Fat Cat, 281 W. 12th St., 243-9041, Piano bar. Mixed M/F.

Duchess II, 70 Grove St (7th Ave.), 242-1408, Women.

J's, 675 Hudson St., 242-9292, J/O club.

Julius, 159 W. 10th St., 929-9672, Serving Coors, Coors Lite, & Coors Draft.

Keller's, 384 West St. (at Christopher), 243-1907, Friendly neighborhood crowd.

Kelly's Village West, 46 Bedford St., 929-9322, Piano bar.

The Locker Room, 400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave), 459-4299, J/O club.

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PRIZES AWARDED
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Best Female - Trophy
Best Couple - Cash Grand Prize

Marie's Crisis, 59 Grove St. (7th Ave), 243-9323, Sing-along piano bar.

The Monster, 80 Grove St. (7th Ave.), 924-3558, Piano bar & disco/dancing.

Nimbus 22, 22 7th Ave. S[illegible]-4826, Dancing, pinball, pool, lo[illegible] CLOSED

Ninth Circle, 139 W. 10th St., 243-9204, Younger crowd.

Ramrod, 185 Christopher St.
Sneakers, 392 West St., 242-9830.

Two Potato, 145 Christopher St., 242-9340.

Ty's, 114 Christopher,741-9641, Cruisy neighborhood bar.
Uncle Charlie's, 56 Greenwich Ave., 255-8787, Huge video bar.

CHELSEA

Barbary Coast, 64 7th Ave. (14th St.), 675-0385, Friendly, neighborhood bar.

The Break, 232 8th Ave. (22nd St.), 627-0072.

Chelsea Transfer, 131 8th Ave. (bet. 16th & 17th), 929-7183, Neighborhood English pub.

Eagle's Nest, 142 11th Ave (21st St.), 691-8451, Leather / Levi's.

Private Eyes, 12 W. 21st St. (bet. 5th & 6th), 206-7770, Dancing, Video Club.

Rawhide, 212 8th Ave., (21st St.), Leather / Levi's.

Spike, 120 11th Ave., 243-9688, Leather & Uniforms.

Tracks, 19th St. & [illegible]ng. CLOSED

To advertise in this space, call: 212/ 337-1200



SUBSCRIBE



Community Directory

A.C.Q.C.
AIDS CENTER OF QUEENS COUNTY
SOCIAL SERVICES • EDUCATION • BUDDIES
COUNSELING • SUPPORT GROUPS
Volunteer Opportunities
(718) 896-2500(voice) (718) 896-2985(TDC)

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)
496A Hudson Street, Suite G4 NYC 10014
(212) 989-1114
A diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Gen. meetings Mon. nights 7:30, at the Community Center 208 W.13th.

ALOEC/APLN-NY
(Asian Lesbians of the East Coast/
Asian Pacific Lesbian Network-New York)
We are a political, social and supportive network of Asian Pacific lesbians. Planning meetings on the 1st Sunday and social events on the last Friday of each month. Call (212) 517-5598 for more information.

ARCS (AIDS-Related Community Services)
for Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. AIDS education, client services, crisis intervention, support groups, case management, buddy and hospital visitor program.
214 Central Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 (914) 993-0606
838 Broadway ,Newburgh, NY 12250 (914) 562-5005
AIDSline (914) 993-0607

ATR (AIDS TREATMENT REGISTRY, INC.)
Publishes a bi-monthly Directory of clinical trials of experimental AIDS/HIV treatments in NY/NJ, and has educational materials/seminars for trial participants. ATR also advocates for improvements in the trial system. P.O. Box 30234, NY, NY 1011-0102. (212) 268-4196. Publications free/donation requested.

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Lawyers Referral
Service for the Lesbian and Gay Community
Full Range of Legal Services (212) 459-4873

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Free Walk-in Legal Clinic. Tuesday 6-8 pm
Lesbian & Gay Community Centr. Ground Floor

BIDS (BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION GROUP)
Share S/M experiences and fantasies with others in a positive, non-judgemental atmosphere. First Sunday of the month, 4:45pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC . This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

BISEXUAL PRIDE DISCUSSION GROUP
Topical discussions on issues of interest to the community in a congenial atmosphere, followed by an informal dinner at a friendly local restaurant. Every Sunday, 3:00 - 4:30pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC. Part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

BIWAYS NEW YORK
Monthly social events for the Bisexual community and friends. Call NYABN for details of upcoming events. (718) 353-8245

BIPAC (BISEXUAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE)
Political action on issues of importance to the Bisexual/Lesbian/Gay community. Monthly meeting/potluck held 8:00pm on fourth Thursday of the month at members homes. Call NYABN for this month's location. (718) 353-8245

BISEXUAL YOUTH
Informal social & support group for Bisexual kids/youth. Monthly meeting/potluck lunch held 1:00pm on fourth Sunday of the month at members homes. Call NY ABN for this month's location. This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

BLUS-BRONX LESBIANS UNITED IN SISTERHOOD
Social, political and support networking group for women and their friends. Regular social events and meetings on the first and third Fridays of every month. At The Community Center, 208 W. 13 Street, from 6:30-8pm. For more info call Lisa at (212) 829-9817.

BODY POSITIVE
If you or your lover has tested HIV+, we offer support groups, seminars, public forums, reference library, referrals, social activities and up-to-date national monthly, "THE BODY POSITIVE" ($15/year).
(212) 633-1782.
2095 Broadway, Suite 306, NYC, NY 10023

CIRCLE OF MORE LIGHT
Spiritual support and sharing in a gay/lesbian affirmative group. West-Park Presbyterian Church
165 West 86th Street
Wed: worship service 6:30 pm, program 7:30.
Marsha (212) 304-4373 Charlie (212) 691-7118.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT
208 West 13th Street , NYC, New York 10011
For Appointments and Information
(212) 675-3559 (TTY/Voice)
PROVIDING CARING, SENSITIVE AND LOW COST HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE
PWAs, PWARCs & their physicians taking the initiative to seek promising intervention against AIDS in a resp. manner. For more info or to volunteer please call (212) 481-1050.

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH
NY's Gay and Lesbian Synagogue Services
Friday at 8:30pm 57 Bethune Street
For info. call: (212) 929-9498.

DIGNITY/BIG APPLE
A community of Lesbian and Gay Catholics. Activities include Liturgies and socials every Sat., 8:00 pm, at the Center, 208 W. 13 Street, NYC.
Call (212) 818-1308.

DIGNITY NEW YORK
lesbian and gay Catholics and friends
AIDS Ministry, Spiritual Development.
The Cathedral Project.
Worship Services & Social-Sun. Eves. 7:30pm-St. John's Episcopal Church 218 West 11th Street @ Waverly-675-2179

EDGE
Education in a Disabled Gay Environment
For the physically disabled Lesbian and Gay Community. (212) 989-1821
P.O. Box 305 Village Station, New York, NY 10014

FEMME SUPPORT GROUP
For lesbians who self identify as Femme. For info and meeting times call Lisa at (212) 829-9817. No men please.

FRONT RUNNERS
A running club for lesbian and gay athletes of all abilities. Fun Runs of 1-6 miles held every Sat. at 10am and Weds. at 7pm in Central Park and every Tues. at 7pm in Prospect Park.
For information: call (212) 724-9700.

THE FUND FOR HUMAN DIGNITY
National Gay and Lesbian Crisis Line
"AIDS 800"---1-800-SOS-GAYS
Educational Resource Center; Positive Images Media Center; NY State Arts Program
666 B'way Suite 410 NYC, NY 10012 (212) 529-1600

THE GAY AFRICAN AMERICANS OF WESTCHESTER(The G.A.A.)
is a community based support group formed in Westchester County. Various activities are planned for the coming months.
Please call 914-376-0727 for more info.

GLAAD
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 (212) 966-1700
GLAAD combats homophobia in the media and elsewhere by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community and organizing grassroots response to anti-gay bigotry.

Do you have 30 minutes a month to fight homophobia?
Join the GLAAD PhoneTree!
Call (212)-966-1700 for information.

GAY & LESBIAN HEALTH CONCERNS
An office of the NYC Dept. of Health, provides linkages betwn NYC Health & Human Svcs, and the Lesbian & Gay community, focusing in ALL health concerns; resource information for health services consumers and providers. 125 Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013. For info call (212) 566-4995.

GAY & LESBIAN PSYCHOTHERAPY
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Institute for Human Identity.
(212) 799-9432

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS
Dedicated to safe and responsible S/M since 1981. Open meetings w/programs on S/M techniques, lifestyle issues, political and social concerns. Also special events, speakers bureau, workshops, demos, affinity groups, newsletter, more. GMSMA -Dept. O, 496A Hudson Street, Suite D23 ,NYC 10014.
(212) 727-9878.

TO LIST YOUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN
OUTWEEK'S
COMMUNITY DIRECTORY,
CALL (212) 337-1223.

GMAD(GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT)
80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 a support group of Gay Men of African Descent dedicated to consciousness-raising and the development of the Lesbian and Gay Community. GMAD is inclusive of African, African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic/Latino men of color. Meetings are held, weekly, on Fridays. For more information, call 718-802-0162.

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE
FOR INFORMATION ON SAFER SEX AND HIV-RELATED HEALTH SERVICES, AND FOR INFORMATION ON ONE-TIME, WALK-IN AIDS COUNSELING SERVICES
212-807-6655
212-645-7470 TDD (For the Hearing Impaired)
Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat 12:00 to 3:00

GIRTH & MIRTH CLUB OF NEW YORK
Social club for heavy, chubby gay men & their admirers. Monthly socials at the "Center", weekly bar nights Thursdays at the "Chelsea Transfer", monthly Fat Apple Review, bi-monthly F.A.R. penpals. For more information call Ernie at 914-699-7735 or write: G&M/NY, Dept. O, P.O. Box 10, Pelham, NY 10803.

HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison)
Weekly info. and support group for treatments for AIDS which do not compromise the immune system further, including alternative and holistic approaches. Wed 8pm. 208 W. 13th St. (212)674-HOPE.

HETRICK-MARTIN INSTITUTE
for lesbian and gay youth. Counseling, drop-in center (M-F, 3-6pm), rap groups, Harvey Milk High School, AIDS and safer sex information, referrals, professional education.
(212) 633-8920(voice)
(212) 633-8926 TTY for deaf

HISPANIC UNITED GAYS & LESBIANS
Educational services, political action, counseling and social activities in Spanish and English by and for the Latino Lesbian and Gay Community.
General meetings 8:00 pm 4th Thursday of every month at 208 West 13th Street.
Call (212) 691-4181
or write H.U.G.L., P.O. Box 226 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10019.

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
Precedent-setting litigation nationwide for lesbians, gay men and people with AIDS. Membership ($35 and up) inc. newsletter and invitations to special events. Volunteer night on Thursdays. Intake calls: 2-4pm Mon thru Fri (212) 995-8585

LAVA (LESBIANS ABOUT VISUAL ART)
Call for slides for Lesbian Artists' Exhibition, Gay & Lesbian Community Center, NYC. For more information, send SASE to:
Miriam Fougere
118 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217.

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LESBIAN AND GAY LABOR NETWORK
An organization of Lesbians and Gays who are active in their labor unions working on domestic partnership benefits and AIDS issues. For more information call (212)923-8690.

LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS PROJECT
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(516) 928-5530 Suffolk

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER NY
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METROPOLITAN TENNIS GROUP(MTG)
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MOCA (Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program.)
Provides safer sex and AIDS education information to gay and bisexual Men of Color; coordinates a network of peer-support groups for gay and bisexual Men of Color in all 5 boroughs of New York City.
303 Ninth Ave, New York, Ny 10001
or call (212) 239-1786.

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE
is the national grassroots political organization for lesbians and gay men. Membership is $30/year. Issue-oriented projects address violence, sodomy laws, AIDS, gay rights ordinances, families, media, etc. through lobbying, education, organizing and direct action.
NGLTF 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.
(202)332-6483.

NEW YORK ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
NYACN is the community's largest gay and lesbian professional group, welcoming all in communications--and their friends. Monthly meetings, 3rd Wed 6:30pm at the Community Center. Members' newsletter, job hotline, annual directory. Phone (212) 517-0380 for more info. Mention OutWeek for one free newsletter.

N.Y. WOMEN'S SOFTBALL GUILD
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NINTH STREET CENTER
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NORTH AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION (NAMBLA)
Dedicated to sexual freedom and especially interested in gay intergenerational relationships. Monthly Bulletin and regular chapter meetings on the first Saturday of each month. Yearly membership is $20; write NAMBLA, PO Box 174, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 807-8578 for information.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ALTERNATIVES
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PEOPLE WITH AIDS HEALTH GROUP
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SAGE: (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)
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ULSTER COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
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For information, call (914) 626-3203.

WHAM! (Women's Health Action Mobilization
A non-partisan coalition committed to demanding, securing and defending absolute reproductive freedom and quality health care for all women. We meet every Wed. at 6:30 pm at the Village Independent Democrats, 224 West Fourth Street (off Sheridan Sq.). We are not affiliated with VID. (212) 713-5966.

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY CENTER (WACC),
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ART DIRECTOR

OUTWEEK Magazine
seeks a full-time person to supervise all art-related aspects of the publication including covers, logo designs, layouts, ad designs, promotional materials, etc. Must have experience working on publications, dealing with printers and working under deadline. Salary plus benefits.
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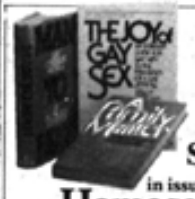
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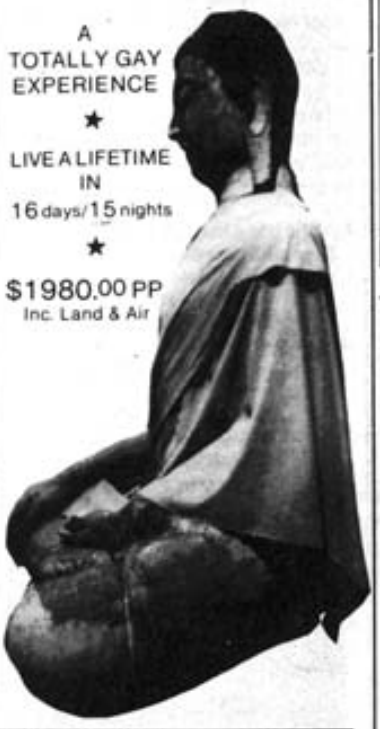
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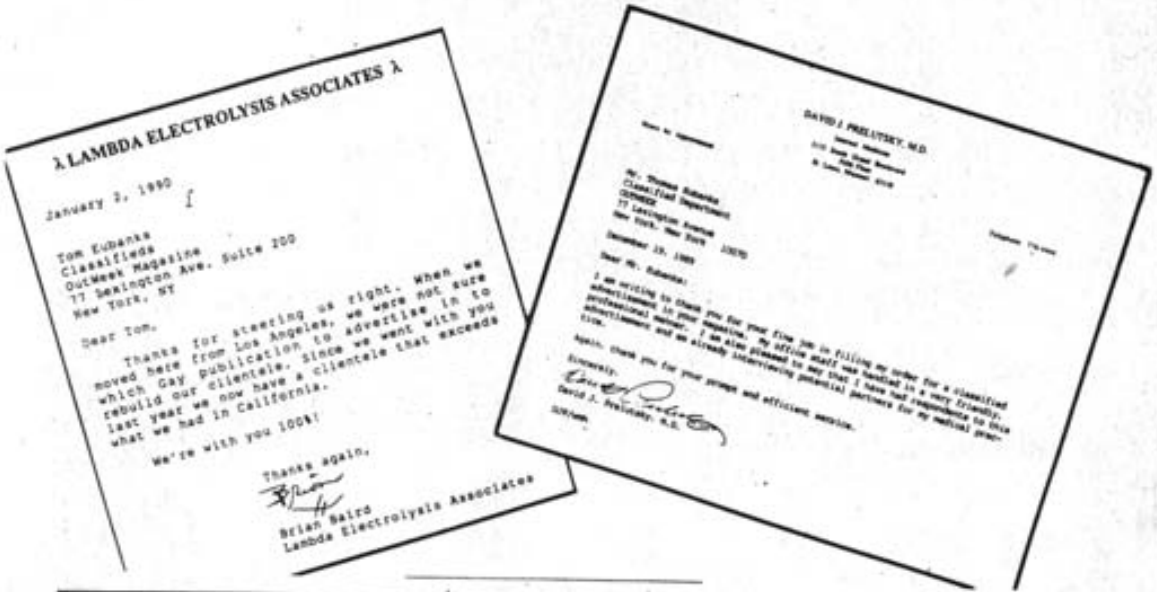
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January 2, 1990

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OutWeek Magazine
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New York, NY

Dear Tom,

Thanks for steering us right. When we moved here from Los Angeles, we were not sure which Gay publication to advertise in to rebuild our clientele. Since we went with you last year we now have a clientele that exceeds what we had in California.

We're with you 100%!

Thanks again,

Brian Baird
Lambda Electrolysis Associates

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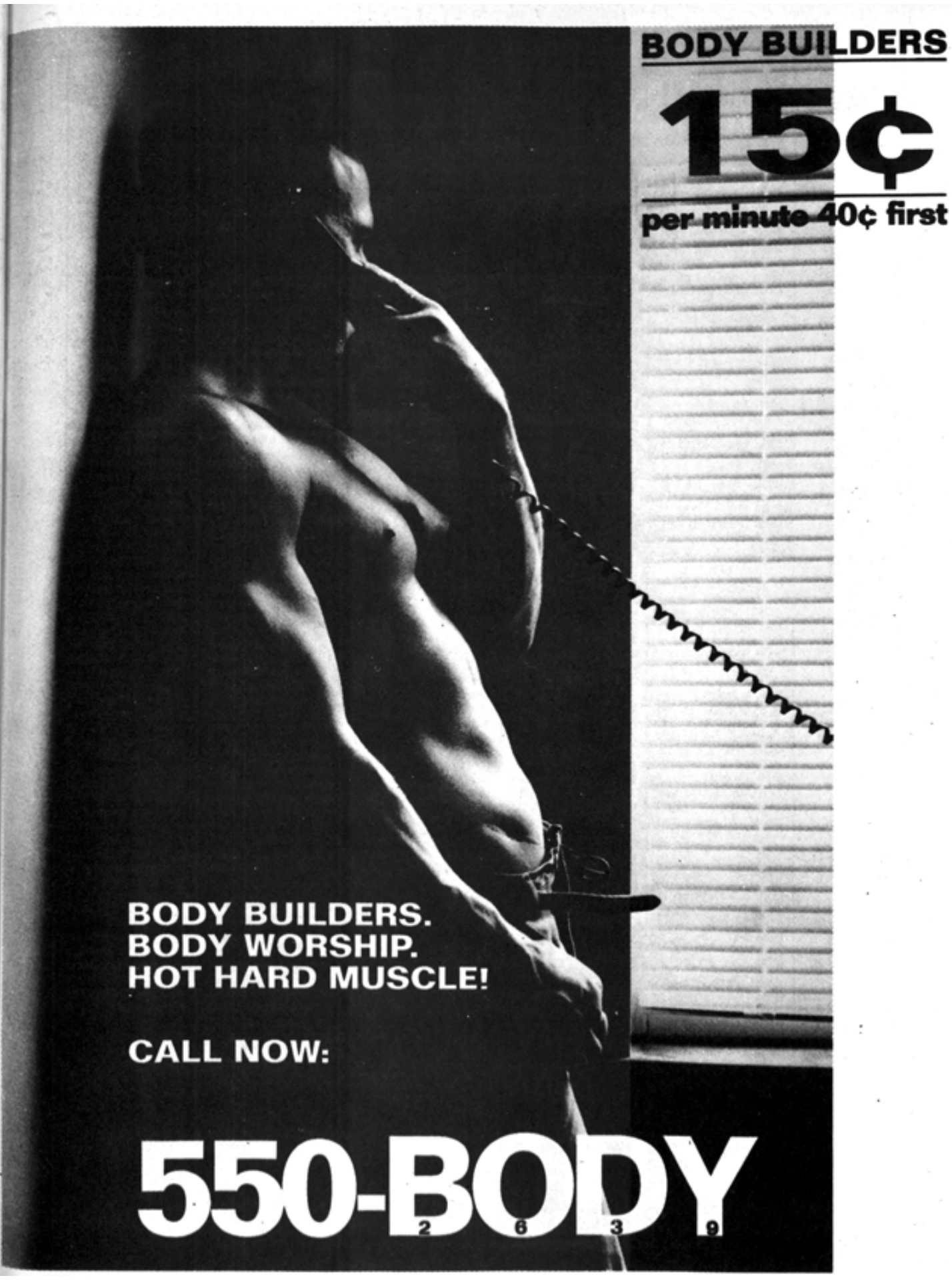
Dear Mr. Eubanks:

I am writing to thank you for your fine job in filling my order for a classified advertisement in your magazine. My office staff was handled in a very friendly, professional manner. I am also pleased to say that I have had a tremendous response to this advertisement and am already interviewing potential partners for my medical prac-tice.

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PERSONALS

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

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How about you? Moonlight and motor trips etc. Hopeless romantic GWF, 27, who's shy and often silly is in search of warm, sensitive pillow talker who likes champagne at ball parks, mini-golf, Broadway, B-movies, kite flying, the Wonderful World of Disney and everything in between. If you believe Romance should never die and are a casual open-minded thinker. Photo if possible. Write Outweek Box 2176

I'M COMING OUT!
I'm seeking a sensitive woman to share the excitement, anxiety and eruption withI I'm 30, attractive, sensitive, intelligent and a humorous (except when I'm writing personal ads) woman. Some of my favorite things are all sports, LET'S GO METS, good movies, I can watch a Meryl Streep movie anytime anyplace, scratching my cat's neck, a blazing campfire, and good old rock 'n' roll. If you're a GF with similar or complementing interests, please write P.O. Box 7517 Rego Park, NY 11374.

LIGHTHEARTED LESBIAN
A sensitive romantic irreverent book thief is looking for a woman comfortable in her skin and sexuality with a feminist sensibility. Outrageous and articulate? Write to me at Outweek Box 2104

THAT CRAZY RED-HEAD-LUCY
think-a-like...searching for her Ethel Mertz partner-in-crime. No Mrs. Trumbulls need apply! OutWeek Box 2106

CUTE BLONDE WRITER
(top) seeks hot women (girls, etc.) for sex. Have a good time w/out getting tied down (or up, your choice). I'm 23, 5'8", Bi/bi, fun and controversial. Please send photo/phone. Outweek Box 2131

HERE I GO AGAIN
GWF 25 dark brown hair brown eyes looking for tall dark and handsome woman to share good times with. I enjoy music movies concerts dining out and more. Please include photo. Outweek Box 2168

BON APPETITE
My "first and only" barely scratched the surface. Delicious LBF, professional, full-figured, 26, ripe, for intelligent, single lesbian (any race) with good appetite for fun and piping hot sex. Outweek Box 2171

MEN'S PERSONALS

SPIT
is looking for a crew-cut dude who doesn't mind buttin' heads with his buddy. Circle this ad, marine. Outweek Box 2161

HOT FOR BOXING?
If boxing turns you on, let's put on the gloves & see what happens. Sweat jock & athletic sox-and hot sex at the end of a bout. Interested? I'm 5'10" 165 bearded hairy chest. You're 20-40, fairly good shape and turned on by flats hitting hot male flesh. I provide gloves-you provide place or we split room. Send fantasy and pic. Get em' up dude. Make my day. Box 124-151 First Avenue, NYC, NY 10003.

PHONE SEX IS SAFEST
Hot GWM, attr, well-bilt, hung, seeks verbal men, esp tops over 30. Tall, husky, hairy chest, grey, musc., Ital. are turn-ons. Use and abuse me. Send tel, fantasies (foto a +) to POB 2520, Times Square Sta. NYC 10108.

HANDSOME HUNG GBM
Top seeks affectionate bottom, preferably hairy Hispanic or Italian for friendship. Goodlooking, hung, intelligent, clean and honest a must, 40-60 years. Photo if possible, will return. Outweek Box 2164

ATTRACTIVE GWM
31, Brn/Hazel, 5'7", muscular, sincere and relaxed professional likes animals, beach, lifting, male contact sports, movies, art. Sks athletic well-built GWM professional with similar interests who wants a romantic/monogamous relationship. Non-smoker. Send letter/ photo/ phone. Outweek Box 2165

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VGL GWM
Interested in a VGL GBM 25-30 years old, for a very serious relationship. I am 29, 5'10 1/2", 155 lbs. I love watching Video Soul on BET, Hip Hop, New Jack Swing, Rap, R&B, Jazz, stereo equipment, art, photography, computers, movies, plays, performances and health food stores. Please send me a letter, photo and phone number, No drugs, s&m, smoking, or hustlers. Outweek Box 2167.

ONCE UPON A TIME
in a land called Northern NJ, lived a 26, 6', 185 vry strt acting GWM professional who looked for a true friend & lover. Let's work out and enjoy the greatest pleasure of our private kingdom. If you'rte my discreet Prince Charming into all aspects, send ph/ph so that we can live happily ever after. Outwekk Box 2169

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Preppie ad exec., 32, 5'8", 150, cute, curly brown, baby blue, seeks bright, affectionate, thirtysomething GWM to share theatre, movies, dining out, cooking in, travel,

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country, beach, card shops, antiques, and my subscription to House Beautiful. Sense of humor essential. Let's start with a date and work towards making meatloaf, planting crysanthemums and picking up each other's shirts. Letter, phone. Outweek Box 2170

LIGHT BEAMS

GWM 39 seeks artistic spiritual travellers for fun, clarity, serenity and awareness. Explore paths of awakeness in spirit of creation. Outweek Box 2172

BIBM CCNY STUDENT

seeks Blk, PR or Dominican dudes 18-22 for some clean oversexed boy to boy fun. I'm a cute Carribean guy, smooth honey-colored body and I can't get enough. I will make your fantasies cum to life. Write: Homeboy, POB 20983, Midtown Station 10129.

4 SKIN LOVER-QUEENS

GWM 6'2" 175 lbs. blond/blue yng 46 seeks uncut European or Latino guy. Must be masc between 18and 40. I am cut but restoring my foreskin. Write P.O. Box 647, Maspeth NY 11378. (718) 424-1064. No JO calls.

GWM 47 5'11" 170LBS.

Healthy HIV+ handsome stache hairy natural body. I'm prof. finan. secure intelligent and affectionate, also sexy. Seek attractive, politically aware, mellow man 30+ for mature, supportive relationship. Outweek Box 2175

DESPERATELY SEEKING FUCK BUDDY

I want an East Village neighbor to fool around with—safely. Must be 20-30 y.o., cute and steamy. You want a good time where "sex only" is the rule. Keeping the spark alive needs to be your highest priority—even if that means never speaking a word. I'm cute, bright, 23 y.o., fun, good shape, 145 lbs., and waiting. Let's trade photos. Outweek Box 2177

ME: PISCES/ SCORPIO RISING

20, slim, handsome, Blk/Irish mix, poet/writer, brutally honest, difficult to deceive, perceptive, bright, serious yet child-like and trusting, fragile in love yet aloof for fear or reaction by my overwhelming emotional intensity. I'm passionate, sensitive, given to dark fits of silent anger damned moody focused, Spiritual but not spacey and interested in meeting YOU: 18-45, secure in who you are, able to mirror my emotional tenor w/equal liquid sensitivity and above all, true to yourself. I prefer blnd, blue eyes but this isn't vital. I enjoy German, sign language, psychology/astrology, intensity and integrity, honesty and of course, sex. If you can handle this, please write: P.O. Box 66, 196th Street Station, St. Alban's, NY 11412.

BATS AND BALLS

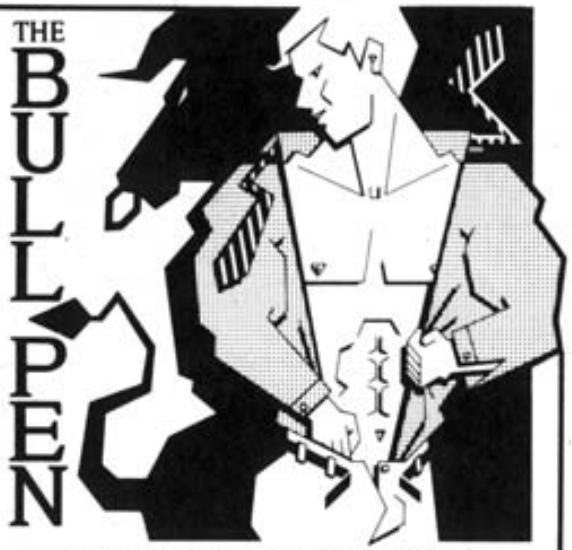
Pitcher seeks catcher with well-oiled glove. GWM, 33, blond, brd, looking for a man who can handle a slider. I promise you nine good innings before we hit the showers. Ltr/phone. Outweek Box 2133

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE!

Looking for something more than I could ever find at Charlie's. (No, Macy's circular is not Literature.) Do you suffer from serious intentions, a serious sense of humor, and serious circumstances? GWM bl/bl match 24 6'2" cute prft slim ex-runner. Looking for enlightened possibilities. Photo appreciated. Outweek Box 2134

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Q: Confused about partylines?

A:

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A TALKING GUIDE TO SOME OF **THE BEST** PARTY—LINES SERVING THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

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YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER

appearance, sensitive by nature, easy laugh, smile and great kisser. UR: Masculine, mature, 30-45, sensual, ready to share, aggressive, hungry TOP—lover of Rubens/Sumo bods, lean to chunky, have varied interests. Photo and phone #, please. Take heart, I'll answer all. Outweek Box 2135.

GAY PUERTO RICAN, 5'11", 162, black hair, beard, average, 33, looking for a monogamous, loving relationship, with another Puerto Rican or GWM. I love the beach, long walks, books, quiet times, movies, cooking. I'm looking for someone with similar interests. Letter and photo to: P.O. Box 621, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276.

MISPLACED CALIFORNIAN
seeks kindred spirit for quiet times, easy laughs and adventure. You are tall, straight acting/looking, smoke, drug and attitude free, prof. I'm same, 31, 165 and athletic. Surf's up...answer today. To Outweek Box 2137

EASY SMILE
seeks to share life's special moments with sensitive, straight acting/looking, adventurous spirit. Non drugs/non smoker. I'm 27, 6'2", brown hair, 165, blue eyes, prof. with Southern sensibilities...o.k. Just do it! Outweek Box 2138

SELF-RELIANT
WM, 45, 6'2", 185, rd/bl/stache, works out (46c, 33w), masculine attitude, seeks similar sort for occassional socializing and whatever. Am the independent minded type—my philosophy of life is somewhat out of Stirner-Nietzche-Crowley-Rand-with a wry sense of humor and a nose for the off-beat, yet feel more at ease hanging out in the outer boroughs than hitting Manhattan hotspots. Reading runs from SF to SOF, music from WQXR to WPLJ. Serious replies to Outweek Box 2140

THE OLDER AND THE YOUNG
GJM, late 50th, European background. Romantic and kind person, Opera and classical music lover. Nonsmoker dislikes heavy drinking. Looking for relationship with GM, 20's into 40's. Write in all confiidence with photo if possible, to: P.O. Box 524, New York, NY 10268.

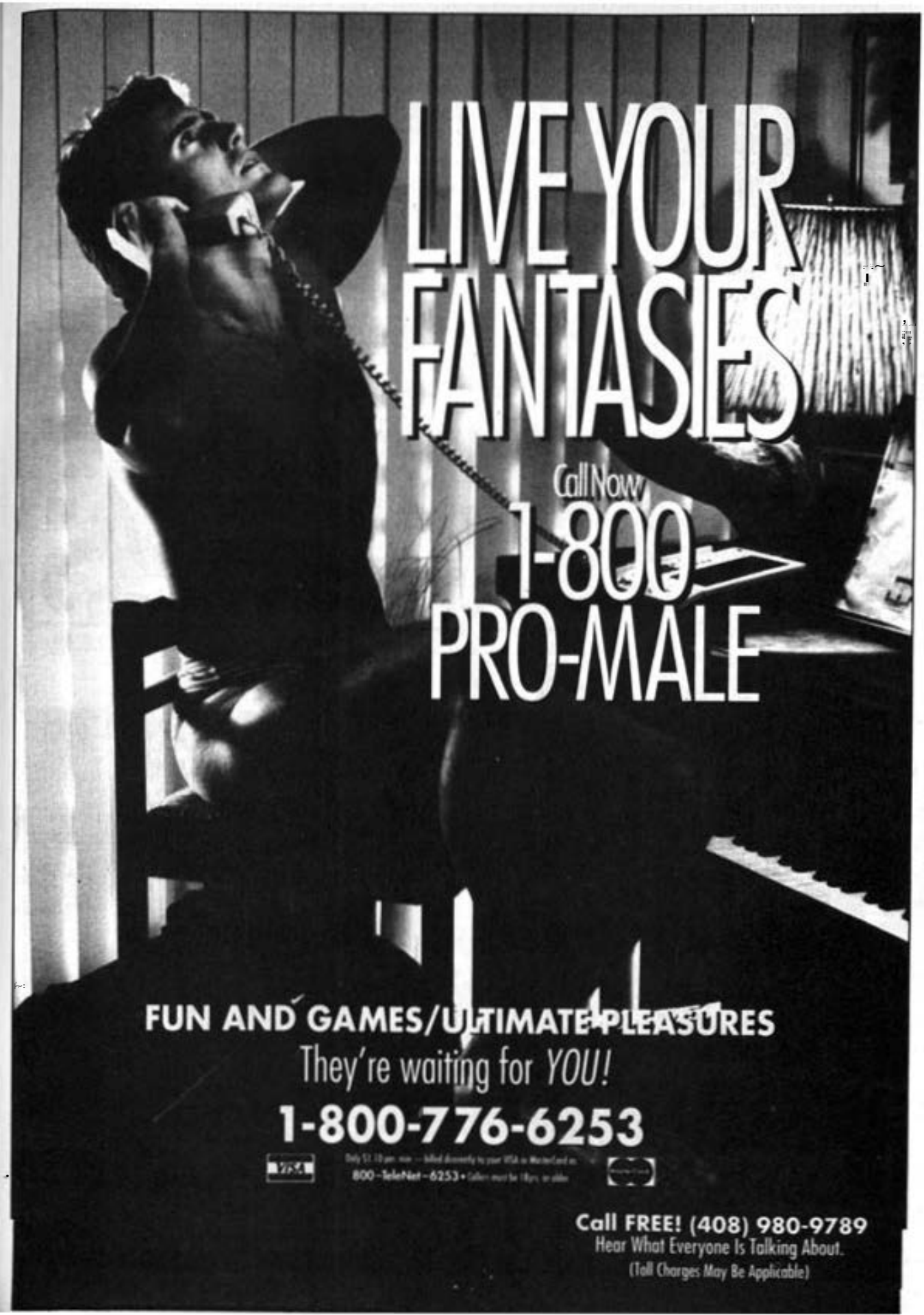
HUNG HUGE-EXHIB.
Like to show off that big bulge, stroke that extra big meat. Underwear, jocks, cockrings. GWM, 40, wants hot, safe action. Photo/phone Box 126, 70A Greenwich Avenue, NYC, NY 10011.

MUSCULAR JOCK DADDY
BB Trainer and promasseur, Br/Br, 40's, 6', 185, u/c, Bi, Scand, College Grad, nonsmoker, travel, sports, arts. Seeks young jock bottom. Box 1706, 2109 B'way NYC, 10023. Warm, friendly nice guy.

ATTRACTIVE
Prof'l GWM, 26, 175, 6'2". Dark blond with beard and stache. Looking for Mr. Tall: 5'10" or above, Dark: brown to black hair, stache a plus, Handsome: self-explanatory. Prospective GWM should be 25-40, prof'l, stable, fit, masculine and enjoy the arts and sensual safe sex. Letter, phone and photo appreciated. Outweek Box 2102

GWM, 26, 5'8", 140, BIG
seeks younger strt, bi, or gay male to entertain, spoil and help through school. I'm cute and fun to be with and I care about you. You don't need to write your life story or send a photo. Serious replies answered with photo. Serious replies answered with photo. Box 1365, Jackson Heights, NY 11372.

NAIVE CYNIC /ADULT KID
GWM, 23, 6'2" with multi-faceted person-


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Hear What Everyone Is Talking About.
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ality seeks fascinating GM, 20-30, to enjoy all sides. Button-down professional by day, bon vivant by night; beach bum in summer, playgoer in winter. I seek a man to compliment my varied tastes with his own style. If you want a strong, steady relationship that won't grow old, send your ph/ph to Outweek Box 2105

BODYBUILDER
GWM 37, 190#, brown hair and eyes, 5'11". I'm looking for a GM with muscles to spare. A take charge type of man, for dating, romance, safe sex, possible relationship. Reply with current photo, letter, tel.# to LTS 20053, NYC 10011-9993.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
living in Westchester and working in NYC, tired of the bars and looking for someone who is honest and sincere. I am a mature 25, interested in someone who enjoys living life to its fullest. If you are searching for someone to share the excitement of life with, look no further. You may have found him. P.O. Box 163, White Plains, NY 10602.

FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY STING LIKE A BEE
Are you ready to be knocked out by love and passion? Romantic hdsm, down to earth GWM prfl, 29 w/dark hair and eyes, gym M body and good sense of humor sks similar man for fun and love. I like movies, dinners w/friends, dancing, etc. Skg warm person for hot times on cool nights. Shy on first date, fun on second. Let's get together! Outweek Box 2111

GWM, 28, 5'1", 160 LBS.
br/bl, hirsute, Irish bkgrnd, straight acting/appearing, conservative profession, considered attractive. Quiet and shy at times. Enjoy European travel, music, dancing, movies, eating out. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you. P.O. Box 1993 Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159.

1BI + 1GAY = 2MEN
Tom, bi, 30, an athletic masseur will trade legit massages and train fit beginner. Jim, 35, GWM, firm gentle top muscular and sensual seeks slim novice for pleasure control. Submit to: Tom or Jim, Box 1487, NYC 10009.

CREATIVE SEEKS CREATIVE
Enterprising graphic/fine artist. Attractive, in shape GWM 33 5'6" 130 finds creative talent a turn on. Attributes: sincerity, optimism and openness. Seeking attractive, imaginative artist/writer with off-beat sense

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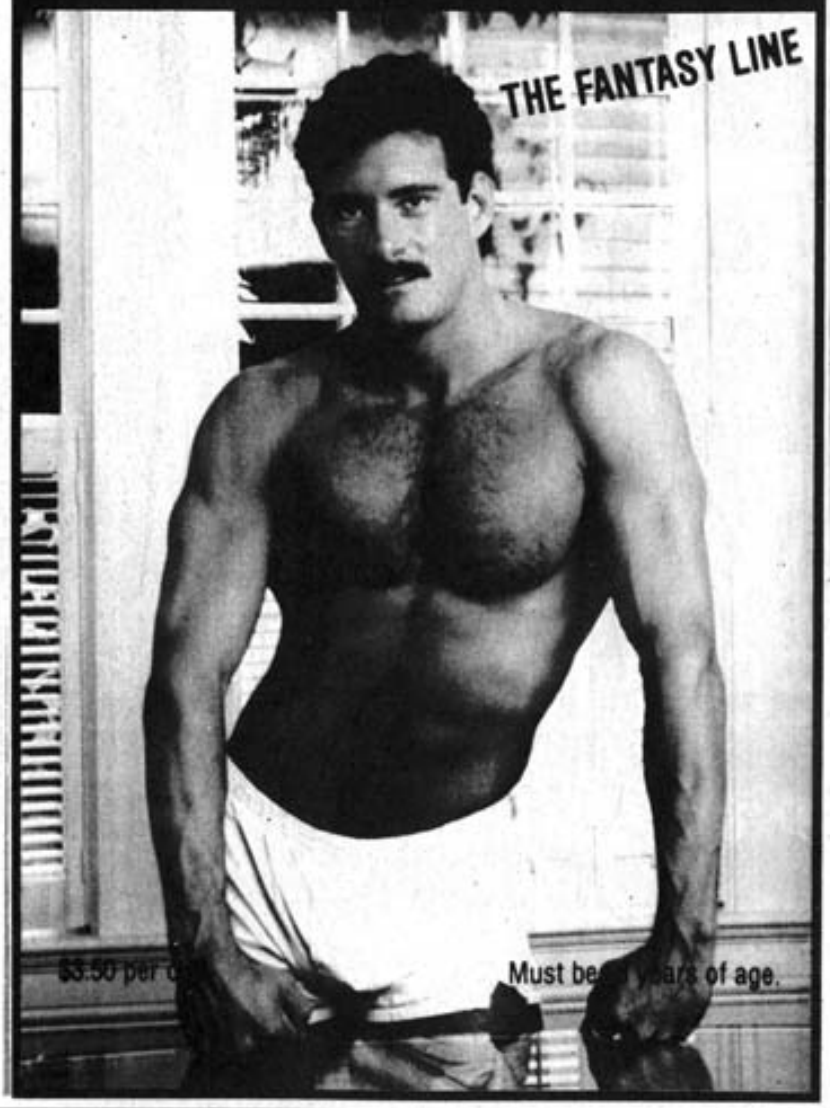
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(OR HAVE FUN WITH A FEW WRONGS TRYING)
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PAY FOR TWO AND WE'LL RUN IT FOR FOUR,
PAY FOR FOUR...YOU KNOW THE REST...

(212)
(516)
(718)
(914)
970-3425



of humor for a date! Not interested in drugs, fems, attitude. Outweek Box 2117

HEALTHY HORNY
Handsome, hung, HIV+, looking for safe fun relationship not nec. 35 all American looks, reply let & photo. Specify desires - I'll call you. Outweek Box 1818

MIND OVER MATTER!
Can I believe that you'll be true? I'll give it a try with someone new. This considerably handsome GBM, 23, 5'9", is looking for some fun and action from you who might be the right guy. If you're a GBM, age 18-28, send ltr/phone and/or photo. Outweek Box 1983

CZECH IT OUT
Looking for new friends to share good times. GWM, 42, 170, 5'9", stache, work-out body, balding, friendly, handsome, Czech-Amer, into massage, j/o, kissing, jockstraps, hot looks, duos or trios. Ph/ph if possible. Outweek Box 2009

AT YOUR DISPOSAL
Bi/W/M slave, 42, obedient, subservient and eager to please. Available to dominant males and couples. The meaner the better. P.D.S. P.O. Box 119 Murray Hill Station, NY, NY 10156.

GAY COUPLE IN PARK SLOPE
seeks 3rd or other couple for fun and friendship. We're 35, prof., enjoy videos, plays, music and all you would expect. No drugs, SS only. Send phone, photo. Go ahead and make next weekend one to remember. Outweek Box 2071

GWM, 36, 6'2" TALL,
150 lbs., brown hair, green eyes, I'm presently in prison, but I'm "everything" you'd want in a real partner. I just need a little help to get me out of prison. I'd like to here from anyone, especially those in their 50's and 60's. If you can send stamps it will help. Write very soon. You will not regret it. Ronnie Meadows, #29027, P.O. Box 128 KY State Pen., Eddyville, KY, 42038-0128.

LIGHTS... CAMERA...?
I need fotos to answer these ads. Attr GWM, 5'11", 190, br/hz, seeks amtr photog to shoot both mild & wild poses. I'll show off my bod, you show off your darkroom skills. P.O. Box 2520, Times Square Station, NYC, 10108.

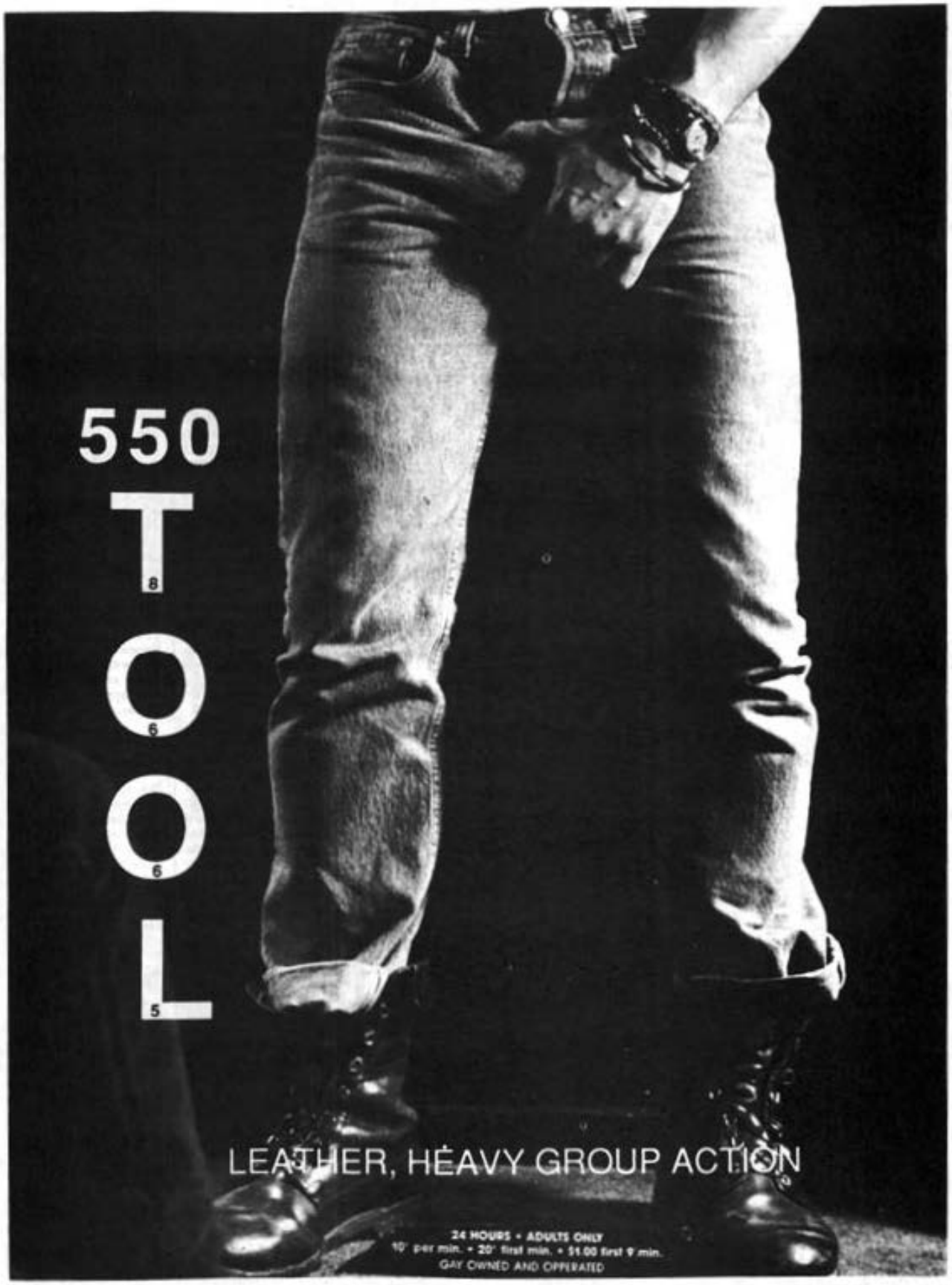
GJM, 47, 6'1", 170 LBS.
doctor, businessman, handsome, curly brown hair. Enjoy classical music, reading, seek younger, serious GWM to share sex and other mutual interests. I like slim build, boyish looks, smooth body. Blonds a +. Letter, ph/ph, Outweek Box 2081

ARE YOU LIKE ME?
You already have a "friend" but looking for a "buddy"-this is my first ad-I'm masculine-very affectionate and romantic-52 but friends say 42-6 ft-186-Mediterranean-hung-hairy chest-healthy-also interested in good talk-good food-and good music-send phone-photo less important-let's talk first! P.O. Box 20322, DHCC, NY, NY 10017.

SPIT
is looking for a crew-cut dude who doesn't mind buttin' heads with his buddy. Circle this ad, marine. Outweek Box 2161

HOT FOR BOXING?
If boxing turns you on, let's put on the gloves & see what happens. Sweat jock & athletic sox-and hot sex at the

ORDER FORM ON PAGE 104

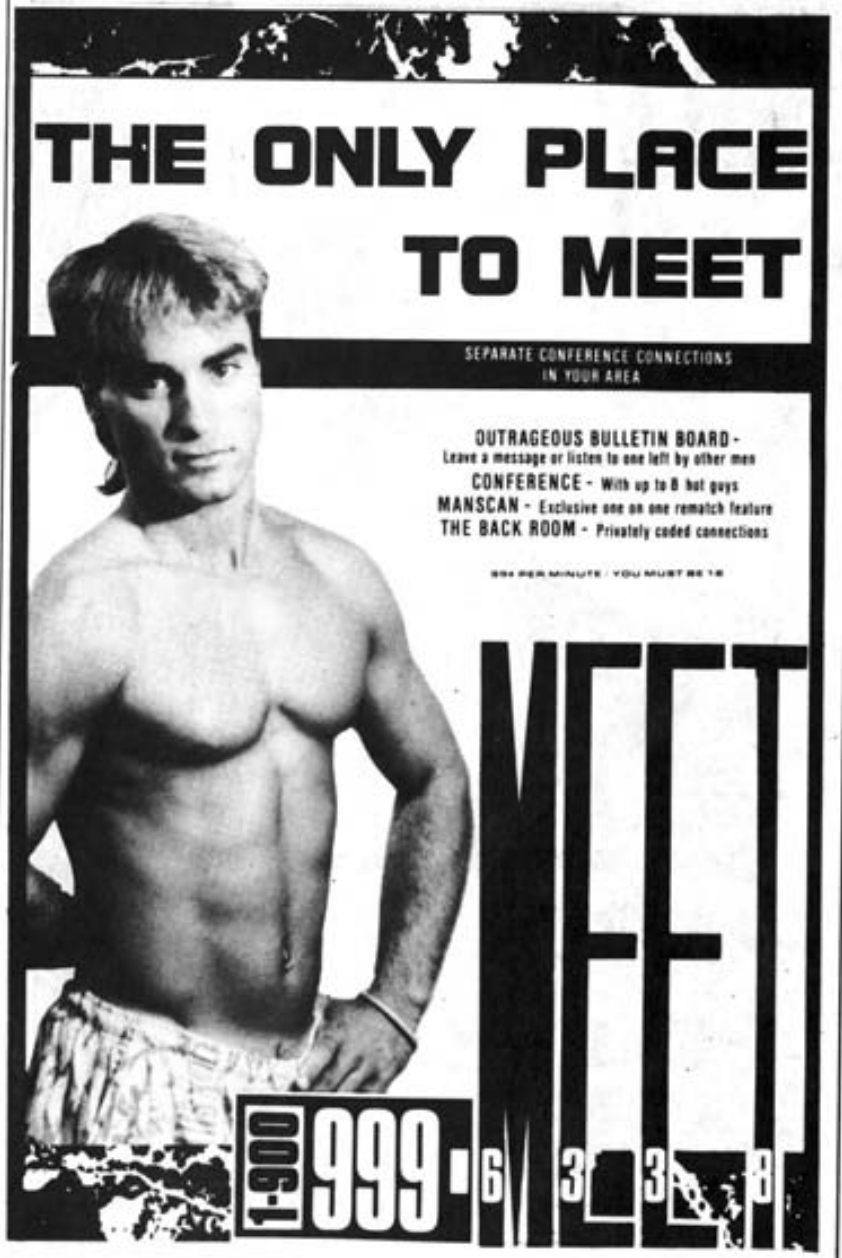

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end of a bout. Interested? I'm 5'10" 165 bearded hairy chest. You're 20-40, fairly good shape and turned on by fists hitting hot male flesh. I provide gloves-you provide place or we split room. Send fantasy and pic. Get em' up dude. Make my day. Box 124-151 First Avenue, NYC, NY 10003.

PHONE SEX IS SAFEST

Hot GWM, attr, well-blt, hung, seeks verbal men, esp tops over 30. Tall, husky, hairy chest, grey, musc., ital. are turn-ons. Use and abuse me. Send tel, fantasies (foto a +) to POB 2520, Times Square Sta. NYC 10108.

HANDSOME HUNG GBM

Top seeks affectionate bottom, preferably hairy Hispanic or Italian for friendship. Goodlooking, hung, intelligent, clean and honest a must, 40-60 years. Photo if possible, will return. Outweek Box 2164

ATTRACTIVE GWM

31, Brn/Hazel, 5'7", muscular, sincere and relaxed professional likes animals, beach, lifting, male contact sports, movies, art. Sks athletic well-built GWM professional with similar interests who wants a romantic/monogamous relationship. Non-smoker. Send letter/ photo/ phone. Outweek Box 2165

GWM SUCCESSFUL ART PHOTOGRAPHER

Highly creative, slightly eccentric, spending summer renovating old stone farm house in upstate NY. I like animals, flowers, walks in the woods. I am also very horny and would like to ravage the body of a young model type or dancer (18-28). I'll photograph you nude in my barn or under a nearby waterfall, and I'll lick your butt clean every night. I'm a good-looking and healthy (HIV-) 40 year old. Non-possessive and caring. If you're a good-looking young lad, send photo and letter to: Outweek Box 2166

VGL GWM

Interested in a VGL GBM 25-30 years old, for a very serious relationship. I am 29, 5'10 1/2", 155 lbs. I love watching Video Soul on BET, Hip Hop, New Jack Swing, Rap, R&B, Jazz, stereo equipment, art, photography, computers, movies, plays, performances and health food stores. Please send me a letter, photo and phone number, No drugs, s&m, smoking, or hustlers. Outweek Box 2167.

ONCE UPON A TIME

In a land called Northern NJ, lived a 26, 6', 185 vry strt acting GWM professional who looked for a true friend & lover. Let's work out and enjoy the greatest pleasure of our private kingdom. If you'rte my discreet Prince Charming into all aspects, send ph/ph so that we can live happily ever after. Outweekk Box 2169

LIGHT BEAMS

GWM 39 seeks artistic spiritual travellers for fun, clarity, serenity and awareness. Explore paths of awakeness in spirit of creation. Outweek Box 2172

BIBM CCNY STUDENT

seeks Blk, PR or Dominican dudes 18-22 for some clean oversexed boy to boy fun. I'm a cute Carribean guy, smooth honey-colored body and I can't get enough. I will make your fantasies cum to life. Write: Homeboy, POB 20983, Midtown Station 10129.

4 SKIN LOVER-QUEENS

GWM 6'2" 175 lbs. blond/blue yng 46 seeks uncut European or Latino guy. Must be masc between 18and 40. I am out but restoring my foreskin. Write P.O. Box 647, Maspeth

YOU MAKE THE CALL...
WE MAKE THE CONNECTION
THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

O Join the action O Be a part of it O Or just listen
O Live contact with other callers O Thousands of connections to be made
O New friends O Dates O 24 hours O Every day O Nationwide O Call now

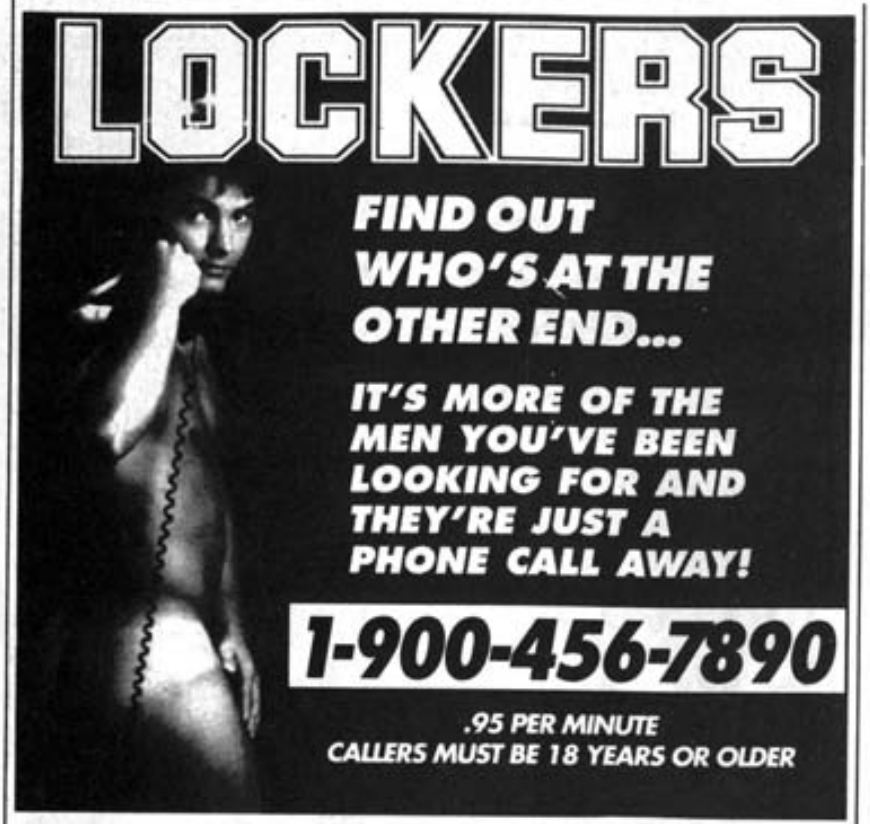






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99¢ per minute
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1-800-888-MALE
65¢ per half minute Mastercard or Visa





NY 11378. (718) 424-1064. No JO calls.

GWM 47 5'11" 170LBS.
Healthy HIV+ handsome stache hairy natural body. I'm prof. finan. secure intelligent and affectionate, also sexy. Seek attractive, politically aware, mellow man 30+ for mature, supportive relationship. Outweek Box 2175

DESPERATELY SEEKING FUCK BUDDY
I want an East Village neighbor to fool around with—safely. Must be 20-30 y.o., cute and steamy. You want a good time where "sex only" is the rule. Keeping the spark alive needs to be your highest priority—even if that means never speaking a word. I'm cute, bright, 23 y.o., fun, good shape, 145 lbs., and waiting. Let's trade photos. Outweek Box 2177

ME: PISCES/ SCORPIO RISING
20, slim, handsome, Blk/Irish mix, poet/writer, brutally honest, difficult to deceive, perceptive, bright, serious yet child-like and trusting, fragile in love yet aloof for fear or reaction by my overwhelming emotional intensity. I'm passionate, sensitive, given to dark fits of silent anger damned moody focused, Spiritual but not spacey and interested in meeting YOU: 18-45, secure in who you are, able to mirror my emotional tenor w/equal liquid sensitivity and above all, true to yourself. I prefer blind, blue eyes but this isn't vital. I enjoy German, sign language, psychology/astrology, intensity and integrity, honesty and of course, sex. If you can handle this, please write: P.O. Box 66, 196th Street Station, St. Alban's, NY 11412.

BATS AND BALLS
Pitcher seeks catcher with well-oiled glove. GWM, 33, blond, brd, looking for a man who can handle a slider. I promise you nine good innings before we hit the showers. Ltr/ phone. Outweek Box 2133

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE!
Looking for something more than I could ever find at Charlie's. (No, Macy's circular is not Literature.) Do you suffer from serious intentions, a serious sense of humor, and serious circumstances? GWM bl/bl mstch 24 6'2" cute prfl slim ex-runner. Looking for enlightened possibilities. Photo appreciated. Outweek Box 2134

HANDSOME, LATIN AND HUSKY
with brains tool 5'9", 31 y.o., performing artist, stable, masc. in appearance, sensitive by nature, easy laugh, smile and great kisser. UR: Masculine, mature, 30-45, sensual, ready to share, aggressive, hungry TOP—lover of Rubens/Sumo bods, lean to chunky, have varied interests. Photo and phone #, please. Take heart, I'll answer all. Outweek Box 2135.

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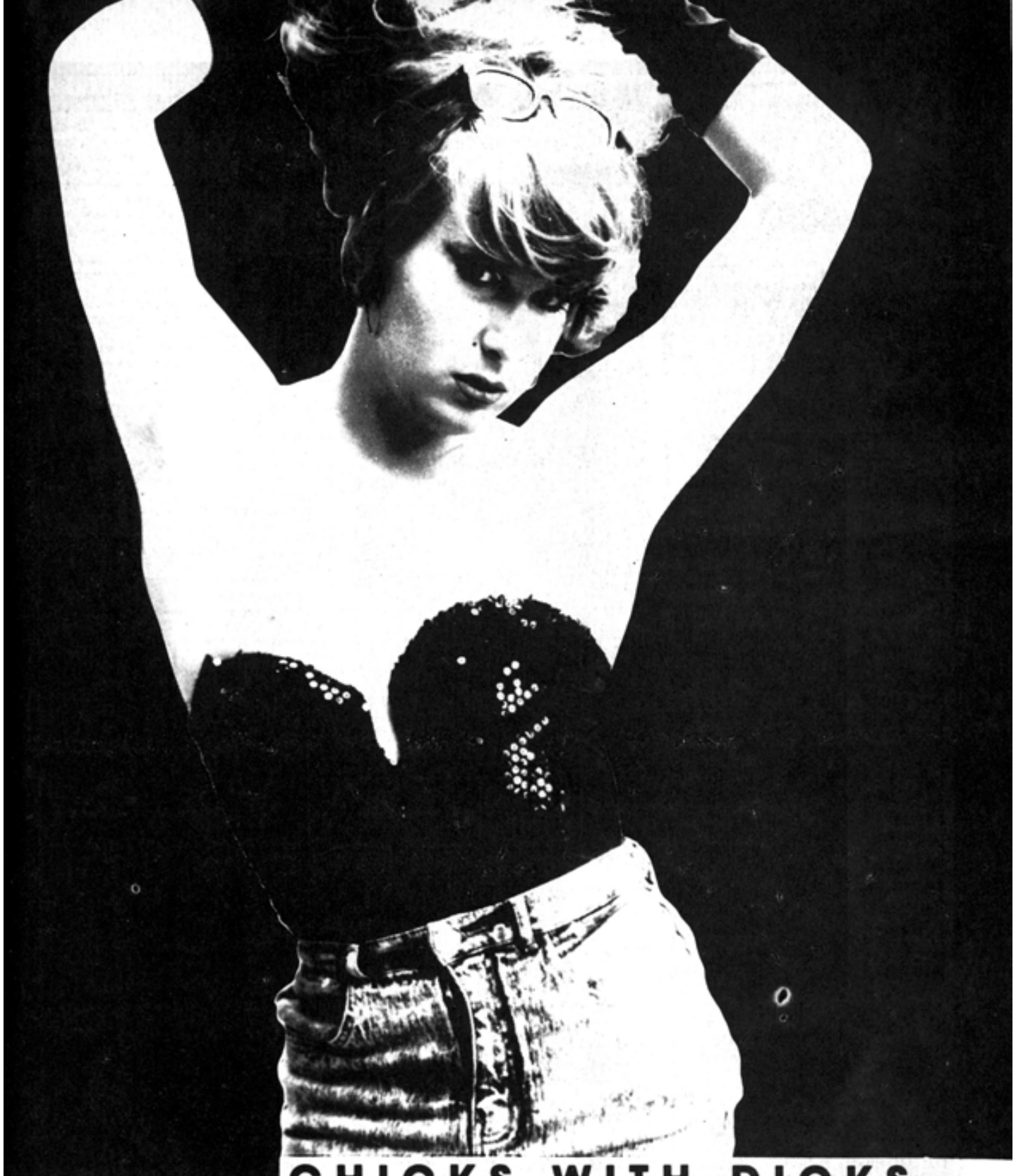
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All *OutWeek* Classified Advertising is prepaid.
The Deadline is NOON MONDAY, one week before on-sale date.
OutWeek reserves the right to edit, reject or rewrite any advertisement.
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Mail sent to *OutWeek* Box #'s is forwarded weekly, on Mondays.
OutWeek boxes are NOT to be used for the distribution of bulk mail or advertising circulars.
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One letter, space, or punctuation mark per box.

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11
12
13
14
15

PERSONALS

___ lines @ $1.00 (seven line minimum)= _____

times ___ weeks ad is to run: _____

Give me an Out▼Week Box #.
and forward my mail each week for _____
months @ $20 per month = _____

Telephone verification charge:
(if your phone # appears in ad) @ $10.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

CLASSIFIEDS

Category:_____

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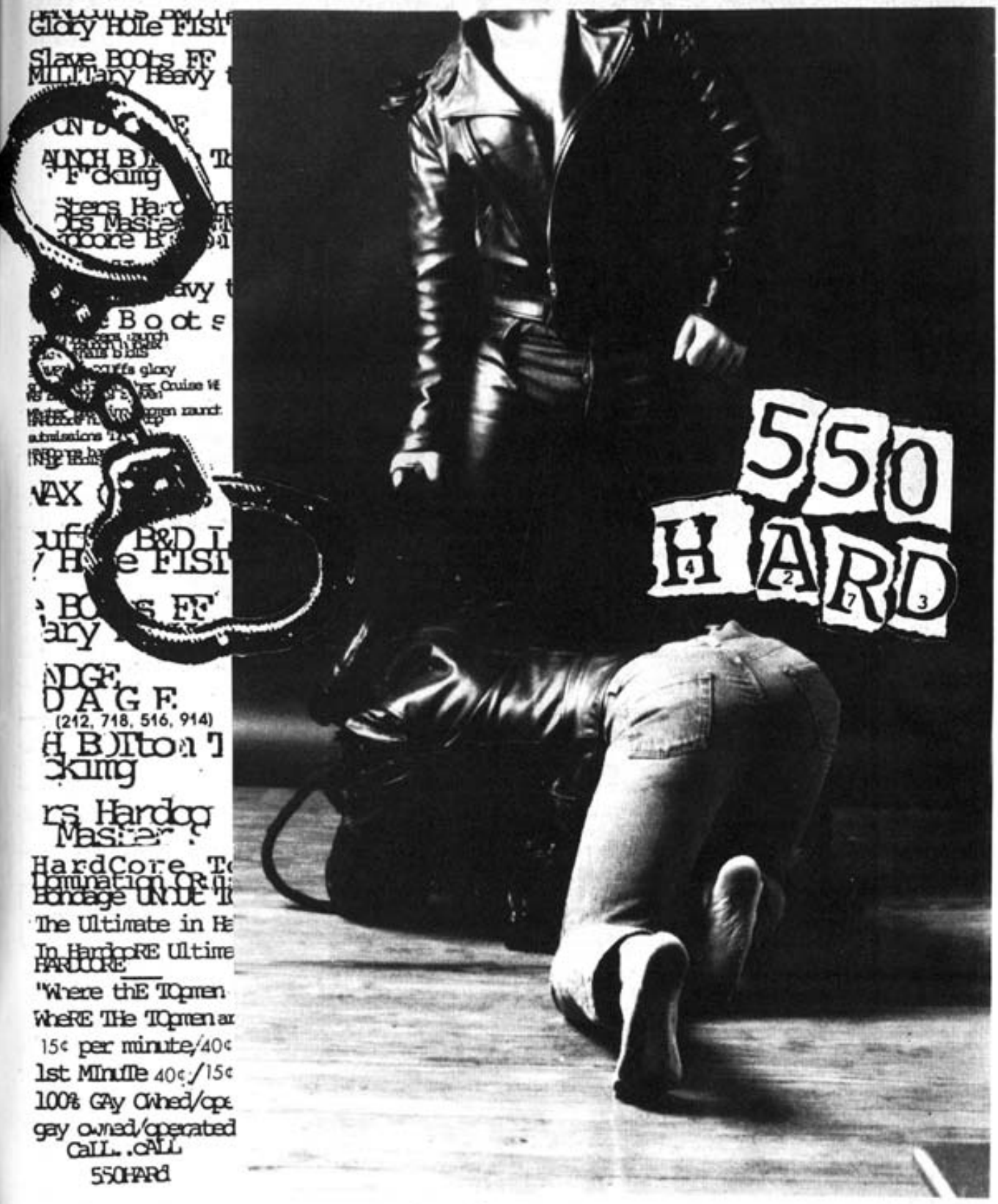
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if ad is to run four or more times,
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TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Charge my Visa / Mastercard. Acct. #:_____Exp._____

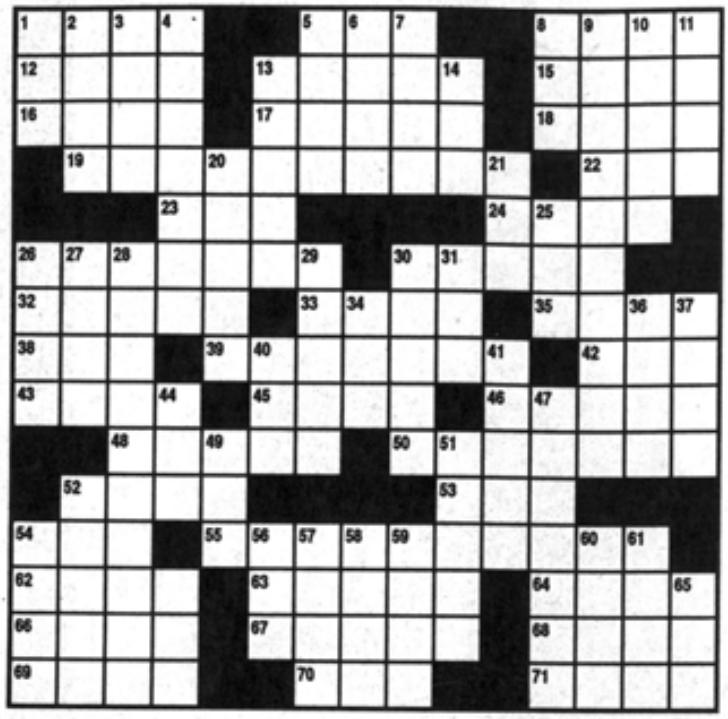
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gay owned/operated
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550
HARD

OutWeek Crossword

by Greg Baysans

Edited by Gabriel Rotello



SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S *OUTWEEK* ON SALE MONDAY

ACROSS

1. Movie dog
5. Goldstein and Smith
8. Goldman
12. Star Garr
13. Vestment
15. Put down
16. Rouse
17. Kind of bull
18. Sort
19. Helms affliction
22. Don't's opposite
23. CIO partners
24. Shrimping objects
26. Played the pipes again
30. Kind of drain
32. Mouth part
33. Hard to find
35. Cafe au _____
38. Rep's cousin
39. Out of work unintentionally
42. One
43. Sea bird
45. Erupt
46. TV's gay Loud
48. Bigfoot's cousins?
50. Not luxurious
52. Zola player
53. Dannemeyer, e.g.
54. Actor Dailey
55. Early gay group founded by Harry Hays
62. Creep
63. Singer Lena
64. Bright star
66. Bad
67. Mrs. Peel's partner
68. Not closeted
69. King toppers
70. Stitch
71. Counting word

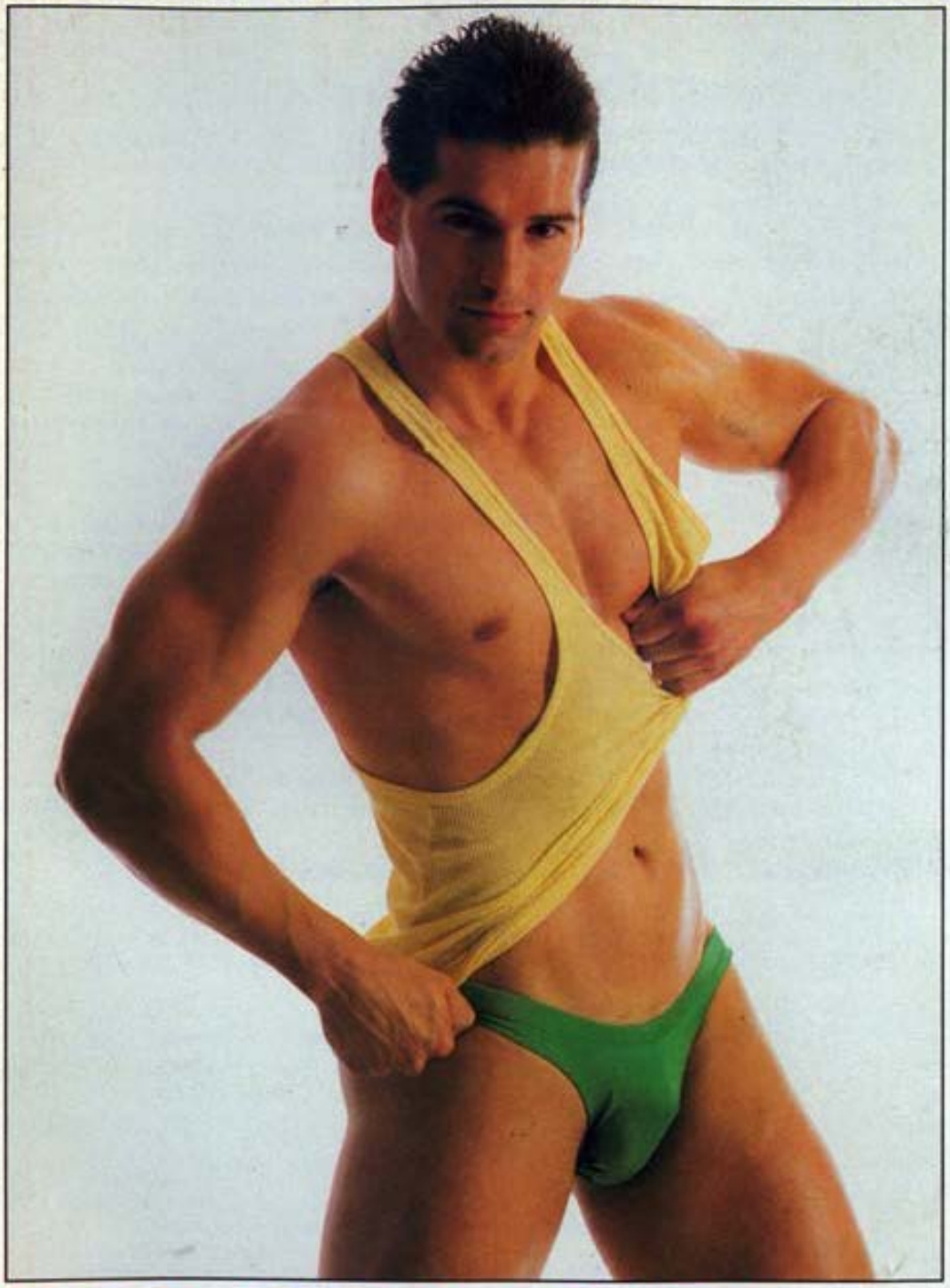
DOWN

1. Prepositions
2. "_____ Speaks"
3. Diana Ross and the Supremes, e.g.
4. Postal order
5. Nurse
6. Chinese poet
7. Strike breaker
8. Antlered animal
9. Dad's sister from England?
10. Europa's son
11. Totals
13. Macintosh
14. Actor Wallach
20. Waste
21. _____ distance, afar
25. _____ based lubricant, safer sex no-no
26. Stratagem
27. Always
28. Mom's comic brother?
29. Faucet faults
30. They get wiped
31. Ump's relative
34. Summer soother
36. Yma Sumac's ancestor?
37. After pre or ump
40. "_____ *Lay Dying*," Faulkner novel
41. Camera adjunct
44. Dunk to Donne
47. Nurse of Orestes
49. GMHC's Sweeney
51. Wore the floor
52. "_____ Panic," former St. Marks shop
54. Norman, for one
56. Sounds of relief
57. Children
58. Pecan, for one
59. Again
60. Slangy negative
61. Tied
63. "For _____ a jolly good fellow"
66. None in particular

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

S	L	O	T	S			O	H	M		G	A	M	E
P	O	S	I	T		A	R	E	A		U	B	E	R
A	C	T	O	R		L	E	A	S		L	O	A	N
T	H	E	N	O	R	M	A	L	H	E	A	R	T	
				B	E	A	D		E	D	G	E	S	
M	A	T	T	E	R			A	D	D				
A	M	A	H		U	R	I	S		Y	O	D	E	L
R	A	T	E		N	A	D	I	R		P	A	V	E
S	T	I	N	G		S	A	S	H		T	R	E	S
			Y	I	P			I	N	S	E	R	T	
	N	E	A	R	S		N	O	N	O				
	O	N	B	O	R	R	O	W	E	D	T	I	M	E
T	O	T	O		A	I	D	E		D	O	T	E	S
U	S	E	R		E	V	E	S		L	U	S	T	S
G	E	R	T		L	E	S			E	R	A	S	E

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THINGS TO DO LIST:
HOW I CAN SAVE THE PHONE SEX LINES

❑ **FAX ZAP** Fred Salerno, CEO of NY Telephone at 212-302-9452 and tell him that I want my phone sex whether he likes it or not, and I am the public, not some billion dollar phone company.

❑ **CALL** NY Telephone's Executive Office and leave a message that I want my phone sex and what I say on the phone is none of their business (212-395-2552).

❑ **CALL** John Kelliher at the Dept of Public Service and tell him how important phone sex is to me (518-474-6530, FAX: 518-474-7146).

❑ **CALL** Peter Bradford, Commisioner of the Dept. of Public Service, and tell him how important phone sex (safe sex) is to the gay and AIDS communities (518-474-2530, FAX: 518-473-2838).

❑ **CALL** Jesse Helms and tell him to get his anti-sex nose out of my phone and out of my bed. Call him at 919-856-4630.

❑ **FAX ZAP** Helms at 919-856-4400.

❑ **CALL** everyone I know and tell them to call these busybodies.

❑ **FAX** these folks too, since they forget about what the public really wants unless you print it.

❑ **CALL** every closet case at NY Telephone and ask them to come out and do something about the phone sex mess.

❑ **TALK** about this stuff at work tommorow.

❑ **CALL** a friend and talk dirty.

❑ **WRITE** to the Department of Public Service. Tell them how important 550 phone sex is to saving lives. Tell them to stop NY Telephone from changing the law. Demand that the Public Service Commision protect the public by keeping party lines the way they are: John J. Kelliher, Secretary, State of New York, Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223

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